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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

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U.S. Army Reserve Command, Public Affairs
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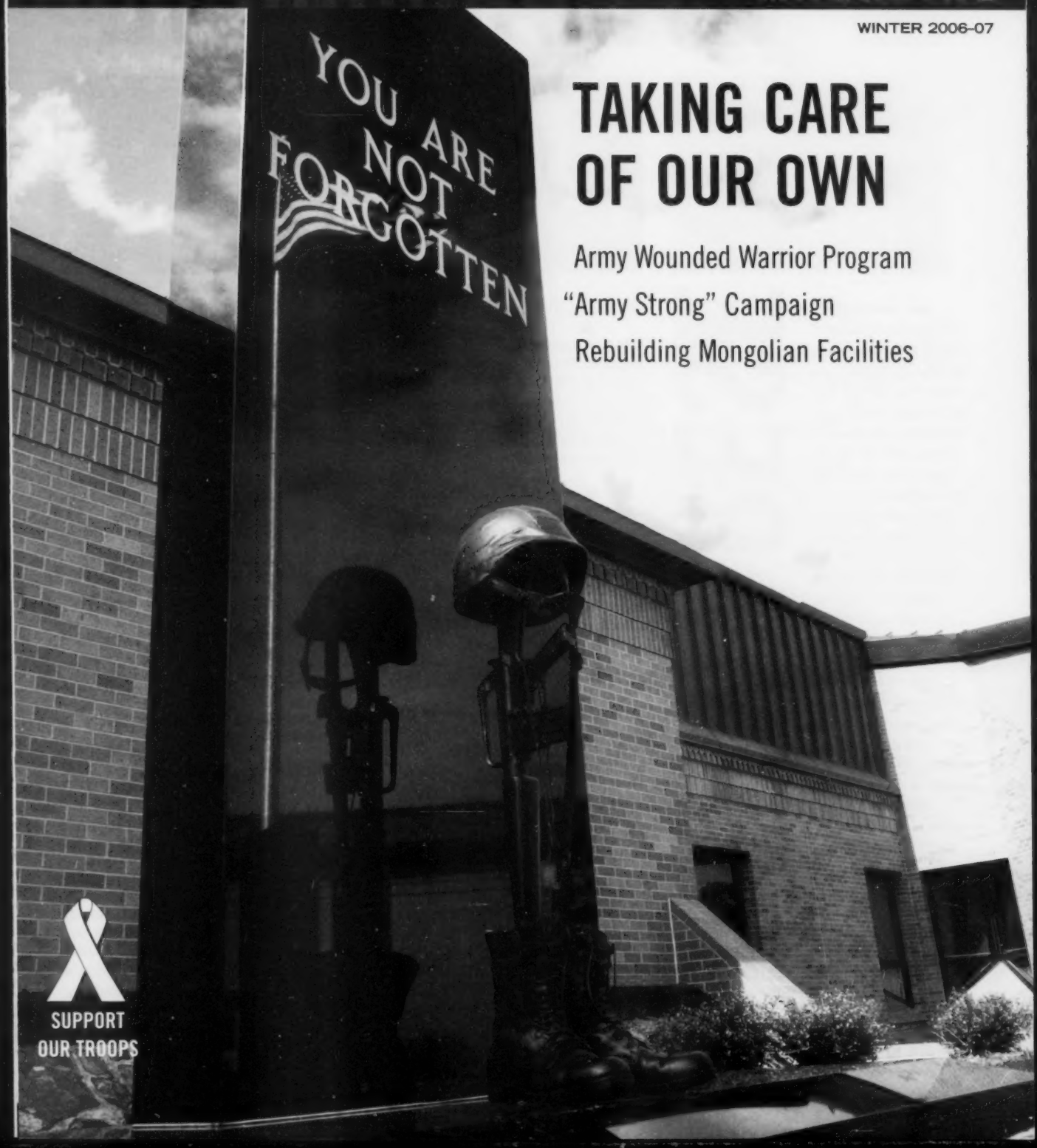

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

Army Wounded Warrior Program

"Army Strong" Campaign

Rebuilding Mongolian Facilities

ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

Since 1954.

Army Reserve Magazine is an authorized Department of the Army publication, published quarterly by the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, ATTN: DAAR-ZXP, 2400 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2400 in accordance with Section 10210, Title 10, USC. The Secretary of Defense has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of public business as required by law. Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on September 2, 1986, IAW provisions of AR 25–30.

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ON THE COVER

The new monument at the 90th Regional Readiness Command was unveiled during the Fallen Soldier Monument Dedication ceremony held in September 2006 at the Reserve Center in North Little Rock, Ark.
(PHOTO: SPC GARY HAWKINS)

Also on the cover: The yellow ribbon symbolizes our commitment to honoring those of our Army Reserve Soldiers who have fallen, those who are missing and those who are serving around the globe. It will appear on each issue until they all come home.

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BACK COVER

PV2 Gary Rittin (left) and SGT Manuel Herrera, 277th Engineer Company, 420th Engineer Brigade, San Antonio, Texas, carefully monitor their course as they lay asphalt while expanding the taxiway at Balad Air Base on Camp Anaconda, Iraq.

(PHOTO: SGT TOM PULLIN)

SUBMISSIONS · *Army Reserve Magazine* invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest to members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Attn: Public Affairs (ARM), 1401 Deshler Street, SW, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000, telephone 404-464-8500 or dsn 367-8500. All email submissions should go to usarcmag@usar.army.mil. All articles ***must*** be submitted electronically or on disk or CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

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News Briefs

"ARMY STRONG" CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Office, Chief Public Affairs
Department of the Army

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The "Army of One" became "Army Strong" in October 2006 as leaders gave Soldiers and Army civilians the first look at the service's new advertising slogan.

Army Secretary Dr. Francis J. Harvey unveiled the new slogan at the annual meeting of the Association of the United States Army in Washington, D.C.

"It is vitally important that the internal Army family understand and embrace this new campaign," Harvey said. "I believe this campaign speaks to an essential truth of being a Soldier."

The Army Strong campaign builds on the foundation of the previous recruiting campaigns by highlighting the transformative power of the U.S. Army. "Army Strong" captures the defining experience of U.S. Army Soldiers. "Army Strong" was developed to specifically address the interests and motivations of those considering a career in the U.S. military. The campaign also appeals to those who understand and support the decision of a family member, friend or employee to serve.

NEW PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM TO IMPACT RESERVE

By DIMHRS Strategic Communications
Enterprise Program Management Office

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — By Spring 2008 Army Reserve Soldiers will be seeing a new personnel and pay system in their commands and battle theaters. The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS) is rapidly developing and marching full speed ahead. DIMHRS will revolutionize military human resources and make a positive difference in the life of each and every Army Reserve Soldier.

DIMHRS is the largest enterprise resource plan ever attempted by the government or commercial sector. Upon completion, the system will host more than 1.7 million personnel records for all components of the Army and Air Force and integrate personnel and payroll into one system. Moreover, the syste.n will contain one record per Soldier, which will help eliminate the lags in the current system that occur when an Army Reserve Soldier is deployed and moved into an entirely different personnel system.

Because personnel and payroll functions will be integrated into one system, personnel actions will automatically affect the payroll through formulas built into the system. This will ensure timely and accurate pay and compensation for Army Reserve Soldiers.

Through DIMHRS self-service capabilities, Army Reserve Soldiers will be able to review and update their own personnel information. Because DIMHRS is online, the system will be available from any computer with an Internet connection at any time, which makes it more convenient for Reserve Soldiers to update their information.

DIMHRS will also decrease the amount of time Army Reserve Soldiers spend filling out forms as personnel and pay information is entered directly into a computer.

Real-time updates and modifications are perhaps the strongest features of the system. Once there is a change in status for an Army Reserve Soldier, the system updates in real time so that anyone else with rights to that information, such as a unit commander or a theater commander, can immediately see the status change in real time

Military hospitals and medical units will also have access to DIMHRS, which will increase accurate tracking of Reserve Soldiers who are wounded during duty. Since DIMHRS will interface with all the services, including the Navy and Marine Corps, joint commands will have an easier time processing personnel and tracking human resources.

For more information on DIMHRS, log onto the Army DIMHRS Program Office's Web site at **www.armydimhrs-.army.mil** and the Enterprise Program Management Office's Web site at **www.dimhrs.mil.**

ARMY UPS REFERRAL BONUS TO $2,000

By Daisy Bueno
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Bonuses have doubled to $2,000 for Soldiers and retirees referring future Soldiers to the Referral Bonus Pilot Program.

Active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, and Army retirees, are eligible for the referral bonus.

Soldiers working in the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program, Special Recruiter Assistance Program, Active Duty for Special Work Program or the Future Soldier Training Program are also eligible if the prospective Soldier has not already met with a recruiter.

The bonus is not paid to Soldiers referring members of their immediate families, to include spouses, children, parents, stepparents and siblings.

Referrals should be made through the Army Referral System — Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team Web site at **www.usarec.army.mil/smart**. An Army Knowledge Online user name and password are required to use the site, at which Soldiers must first establish a user account to make a referral. Users will be asked to submit such personal information as their social security number to facilitate payment.

Referrals may also be made at (800) 223-3735, ext. 6-0473.

The bonus is paid in two lump sums. The first half is paid when the Soldier begins basic training, and the second half is paid after the Soldier graduates from One-Station Unit Training or Advanced Individual Training.

There are no retroactive provisions to the change. Sponsors who provided referrals before Nov. 13, 2006 are only eligible for the $1,000 bonus.

ARMY RESERVE PROVIDES INTERNAL CONTROL TRAINING

By Randy Flisak
Army Reserve Internal Review

ATLANTA, Ga. — The office of Army Reserve Internal Review (IR), in conjunction with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army Financial Management and Comptroller (ASAFMC), reached a major milestone in 2006 by conducting their own two-day Army Manager's Internal Control Program (MICP) training session in September 2006.

This comprehensive MICP training was all encompassing, providing high quality training to Army Reserve management control administrators (MCAs), assessable unit managers (AUMs), and other Army Reserve personnel that cover the statutory and regulatory requirements of the Army's MICP. Training included: underlying Army philosophy on internal controls; major elements of the Army's MICP; basic responsibilities of key players; development of five-year Internal Control Plans; conduct of effective internal control evaluations; identification and documentation of material weaknesses, and plans to correct them; and preparation of the annual statement of assurance.

A shortage of funds prevented the hiring of outside trainers. By conducting the training with available resources, the event organizers saved the Army more than $101,000.

NEW POLICIES TO RELIEVE STRESS, PROMOTE UNIT COHESION, SAYS DOD

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The new Defense Department policy limiting the duration of call-ups to 12 months is already in effect for National Guard and reserve members being ordered to active duty, the senior DoD reserve affairs official reported.

The new mobilization limits, announced Jan. 11, 2007, are designed to reduce stress on the force and keep Guardsmen and reserve members from leaving the military, Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said during a joint interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Hall said Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates' policy recognizes that the 18- to 24-month mobilizations many Guard and reserve members faced were creating too heavy a burden.

Servicemembers, as well as their families and employers, spoke, and Hall said the Defense Department listened. "We have come to the conclusion that based on numerous inputs, that 18- to 21-months over a long war, over a career, is just too much," he said. "It is over and above what employers and families and individuals will accept and still remain in the Guard and Reserve."

Hall reported that while shortening mobilization times, the military is also working to stretch out the time between involuntary reserve-component call-ups.

DoD's goal is to give reserve-component members five years at home between one-year-deployments. For active-duty troops, the goal is two years at home station after each one-year deployment.

Hall acknowledged that turnaround times for both active- and reserve-component troops have frequently been far shorter — and that this needs to change. "We recognize that we're getting to a situation where we needed to make sure we adequately spread the burden between the active, Guard and reserve."

But in cases in which troops must deploy early or have their deployments extended — a situation Hall acknowledged will sometimes happen — he said he's all for a new plan to compensate the affected troops. "We think it is quite reasonable that you should receive additional compensation, and that will soon be in place," Hall said.

Another new policy change — that Guard and reserve troops will deploy as units rather than individuals — also is drawing wide approval, Hall said. The plan also calls for eliminating "cross-leveling," a practice used to fill manpower slots in deploying units.

Hall described the problem with cross-leveling. When a reserve unit is identified for deployment but doesn't have all its positions filled, those gaps get filled by smaller units or individuals from other units. But when those other units get deployed, they now have gaps, too, because their troops are either deployed or just returned from a deployment. "This just creates a ripple effect," Hall said.

The problem is particularly troublesome in the Army and Marine Corps, which tend to deploy their combat and combat-service-support elements as units, he said. The Air Force and Navy are more likely to mobilize individuals.

Under Gates' new policy, Army and Marine units will deploy as a whole. "So, when your unit is called, if you are serving in that unit, you will go, even if you might have mobilized before," Hall said. "This will promote cohesion and will be a better planning factor." ARM

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

By LTG Jack C. Stultz
Chief, Army Reserve
Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command

PHOTO: SFC CHRIS FARLEY

LTG Jack Stultz, Chief, Army Reserve, addresses the congregation at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel in Minnesota.

SOLDIERS REQUIRE SUPPORT FROM MANY FRONTS

I was more than a little disappointed when I read a letter to the editor of Army Times that said SSG Matt Maupin's latest promotion was inappropriate.

I was surprised that a retired Soldier questioned why we promoted Maupin, who was captured three years ago but hasn't been seen since. We know he was taken as a prisoner because we saw him on videotape. That is all we know.

I was concerned that the writer didn't understand our Warrior Ethos, which calls for us to never leave a fallen comrade.

We don't, and we won't.

So, I felt I had to respond to that letter. I wanted all of our military men and women — Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen — to know that, if they're captured, their leaders will continue to search for them and do everything possible to find them. Every military leader will consider them still in our ranks and ensure they receive consideration for promotion, pay and other benefits.

Many people have roles in caring for our men or women in uniform, and each is critical to Soldiers' welfare and the success of the war effort.

Families give Soldiers love and support, while employers provide Soldiers the peace of mind of knowing that, when they come home, they can go back to work and provide for their families. And Soldiers must know that their communities — their friends and neighbors — support what they're doing.

My job, as Chief, Army Reserve, is to give Soldiers the full support of the military in terms of the equipment and training they need to do their jobs.

Meeting all Soldiers' needs is a challenge because our force is geographically dispersed rather than gathered on installations where Army Community Service, Army Emergency Relief, Red Cross and other service organizations reside.

I have actively reached out to such organizations to let them know Army Reserve Soldiers need their support.

GEN E.C. Meyer, president of Army Emergency Relief (AER), is working to expand the support AER gives our Soldiers. AER now will make loans, and sometimes grants, to Soldiers who have orders to be mobilized for more than 30 days. AER helps finance emergency needs for food, rent or utilities; emergency transportation and vehicle repair; funeral expenses; medical and dental expenses; and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

Military service organizations have long recognized the importance of caring for Soldiers, and, because these groups are community based, members can more easily provide assistance to more men and women in the Army Reserve.

"Soldiers are our most valuable resource — if we provide for them, they will sustain for our nation and secure our freedom and our prosperity. The first Sergeant Major of the Army, William O. Wooldridge, once said, 'Take care of each man as though he were your own brother.' His philosophy may sound simplistic, but it's right on target."
— LTG Jack Stultz

I met with The American Legion leadership, who told me they are concerned and that they recognize our challenges. Now they are proactively looking for ways to care for Army Reserve Soldiers.

A few months later, on behalf of the Army Reserve, I signed a memorandum of understanding with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States that will open local facilities for Army Reserve activities and promote community support for mobilizations and demobilizations.

A lot of people are working hard every day to look after our Soldiers, but young privates and specialists in Army Reserve units look first to their NCOs, because the NCO's job is to provide guidance and direction, to ensure Soldiers grow professionally and develop into the leaders of tomorrow, and to make things happen when a difficult situation arises. Soldiers expect their NCOs to be approachable, technically proficient and honest with them.

My message to these first-line leaders is that looking after Soldiers is your number one priority. Our Warrior Ethos says, "I will always place the mission first," but we cannot accomplish our mission unless NCOs attend to our Soldiers.

Caring for Soldiers doesn't mean coddling our Soldiers. Caring for Soldiers means living the Army values every day, setting high standards, enforcing those standards and sometimes making Soldiers do things they don't want to do. It means doing the right thing — legally and morally — every time and creating an environment where Soldiers can fulfill their potential.

To help me get my message out to our NCOs, I recently swore in CSM Caffie as our new Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve.

"My message to these first-line leaders is that looking after Soldiers is your number one priority. Our Warrior Ethos says, 'I will always place the mission first,' but we cannot accomplish our mission unless NCOs attend to our Soldiers."
— LTG Jack C. Stultz

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY

Irene Golinski and her two grandchildren, Brenden Potter (left) and Antony Carucci view the plaque that was unveiled during the dedication ceremony of a conference room to the memory of her husband, COL (ret.) Ronald F. Golinski. He was a retired Army Reserve Soldier who was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon, where he worked as a Department of the Army civilian in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel. On the fifth anniversary of the event, LTG Stultz spoke to colleagues, friends and family members assembled for the event.

CSM Caffie earned my complete trust and confidence when we served together in earlier assignments, and he outshined several very qualified command sergeants major that I interviewed to make sure I found the best Soldier for the job.

Some call the term a cliché, but I call CSM Caffie a real Soldier's Soldier. He demands high standards, but he never asks a Soldier to do something he wouldn't do himself. He understands the sacrifices Soldiers make because he's been there on the battlefield with them, both in Vietnam and more recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom. CSM Caffie understands the role of the NCO, and he knows that if the mission is to be accomplished, NCOs must make it happen.

WELL-BEING/ FAMILY READINESS

CARING, DEDICATED TEAM SUPPORTS ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS, FAMILIES

By Michael Sick
Marketing/Public Relations
Defenseweb Technologies

One of the basic rights and freedoms that people around the world want is to be able to raise a family and feel comfortable that their children are getting a good, safe education. It is with no small level of irony that Army Reserve Soldiers must leave their homes and families for extended periods of time for the call to duty in order to provide these basic freedoms to people around the world.

With the impact of increased mobilizations and deployments in recent years, the Army Reserve Family Programs office has implemented a number of initiatives to ensure that spouses and children of Army Reserve Soldiers are taken care of while the Soldier is deployed. These programs range from child care to after school activities to camps and more.

He demands that NCOs adhere to the highest standards, but he doesn't hesitate to go to bat for them. On several occasions, I have seen CSM Caffie go to the mat for NCOs under his command and demand the equipment or training they needed to accomplish their mission.

Soldiers need to know that the Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve has been there and done that and that he cares about them.

One of CSM Caffie's first areas of focus — he calls them the rocks I put in his rucksack — is to ensure NCOs can do their jobs. Another rock in that rucksack is for CSM Caffie to go out to the units to ensure NCOs are properly used.

I've also asked CSM Caffie to get the word out to Soldiers about Army transformation and Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) and how change will impact you — our Soldiers — and your families and employers. He will make sure that no Soldier who wants to serve will be left behind.

"Any Soldier who is not informed is a Soldier we're going to lose, so CSM Caffie will travel extensively and meet with Soldiers to ensure you know my commander's intent and my vision for the future of the Army Reserve."
— LTG Jack Stultz

Any Soldier who is not informed is a Soldier we're going to lose, so CSM Caffie will travel extensively and meet with Soldiers to ensure you know my commander's intent and my vision for the future of the Army Reserve.

As our force continues to transform, we must provide viable career paths for Soldiers, and we realize that most Soldiers cannot abandon their communities or travel great distances to serve in the Army Reserve. Therefore, we have to build the right force structure in the right places so our Soldiers can maintain their careers in the Army Reserve.

Although we are closing facilities, we're not reducing the size of our force; we're restructuring and reorganizing it. As we restructure, we will look at where our Soldiers live and how we can best employ them.

Restructuring may require some retraining of Soldiers, but I will ensure that a young E-4 in Alabama can say with certainty, "I want to stay in Alabama and advance to the rank of E-7 in the Army Reserve." I intend to build adequate numbers of the right structures to meet the needs of our Nation while offering the Soldiers in our ranks today the opportunity to fill those requirements.

Make no mistake about this, the key to our future success is filling our ranks. Ours is an all-volunteer force, and it will continue to be an all-volunteer force. So, as I told my sales force while in my civilian occupation, we have a value equation. If I ask customers to buy one product instead of another, they will consider the cost and the benefit to them and pick the product that best meets their needs for the best price.

Soldiers are the same. They ponder the cost of being a Soldier in the Army Reserve and what they get for their service. In the past, it just cost them one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. We've changed that equation.

We have to consider what we can offer our Soldiers to balance that equation. Tuition assistance, health care benefits and GI Bill-type entitlements may help, but we understand that we're asking more of our Soldiers today, and we must ensure the quality of life that our Soldiers enjoy matches the quality of service they give the nation. ARM

Soldiers have repeatedly told senior leadership that knowing that their spouses and children are supported while they are deployed is a key ingredient to helping them stay focused on the mission. The Army Reserve Family Programs office is composed of 141 full-time and contract family programs staff members who provide essential services to Reserve Soldiers and their families. They are also responsible for monthly contacts with unit leaders and family readiness groups.

With 167,000 Soldiers in troop program units and more than 100,000 other persons classified as IRR (Individual Ready Reserve) or IMA (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), the family programs staff supports a huge constituency. With the help of other agencies, programs supported by corporate sponsors or foundations, and volunteers from charities and veterans organizations, the Family Programs Office enables military families to access an extensive and increasingly diverse range of programs and services.

The Child and Youth Services team at the Army Reserve Family Programs Office has expanded over the past couple of years to a ten-person staff focused specifically on developing programs to meet the needs of Soldiers and their families. Child care is a common issue, both for day-to-day needs while a Soldier is deployed and also for short-term respite and reunion child care. Two different programs are available for Army Reserve families to locate free or reduced cost childcare: Operation Child Care and Operation Military Child Care.

Operation Child Care is a nationwide initiative to provide short-term respite and reunion child care for children of service members returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom for their two-week rest and recuperation leave period. Care is coordinated through the effort of the National Child Care Resource and Referral Association (NACCRRA), which has state and local affiliates throughout the country. Local child care organizations and providers have volunteered to provide short periods of free child care. The minimum time volunteered is four hours.

Operation Child Care gives parents a night out and daytime opportunities to attend to personal business. Child care is provided by licensed providers, staff or trained volunteers, or through childcare hours donated by trained 4-H Club babysitters.

For more information on Operation Child Care, visit the website at **www.naccrra.org**, or call a Referral Specialist at (800) 424-2246 to access local child care.

Operation Military Child Care provides installation-based child care or subsidies for community-based programs. Families of Army Reserve Soldiers activated/deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism are eligible to participate during the period of the military parent's deployment period and for 30 days after the return of the military parent.

For families who are unable to access care on military installations, eligibility is extended to 60 days after the return of the military parent.

This program helps eligible military families locate affordable child care options in local communities. Military families who are using licensed and legally operating community-based child care programs and providers will pay reduced fees. Military families living near installations will be referred to on-base childcare programs.

"We are committed to taking care of our own."
— Lee Ratliff, director of Army Reserve Family Programs.

SSG Michael Cunningham of the 88th Regional Readiness Command had been using child care for his five-year old son in Michigan. When he moved to Minnesota and was told about the program, he was surprised by how much he was saving. SFC Tracy Page and her husband were both mobilized in 2005 and spent $20,000 on child care for their two young sons before they learned about the program. Now that they have signed up, they are saving money every month and are using the same childcare facility.

SGT Koley Anthony of the 807th Medical Command in Seagoville, Texas, had her four-year old son in a childcare facility near her home for over a year when she learned about the program from a family programs staff person. After working with her daycare provider to get approval through the program, she now has been saving money on child care every month without having to change facilities. She also learned that should she need to move to another post, her Operation: Military Child Care application would just need to be updated with the new child care provider.

The subsidy program is intended to help support military spouses' employment, education, or special medical circumstances. Subsidies will only be provided to single parent families, families with a working spouse, or families who have a parent enrolled in school. It will also be provided to families during a period of 60 calendar days while the spouse is looking for work.

"Deployed Soldiers should know that we have a caring and dedicated team in place to provide activities and support to their families," said Lee Ratliff, director of Army Reserve Family Programs. "We are committed to taking care of our own."

For more information on Operation: Military Child Care, visit the website at **www.naccrra.org.** ARM

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

PHOTO: CHUCK PRICHARD

Former Army Reserve 1SG Jesse Acosta and his wife, Connie, make their way to a session of an Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) program symposium. Acosta, who was blinded during a rocket attack while deployed to Iraq, was one of about 120 Army Reserve Soldiers who are being helped by the AW2 program. He and his family participated in the symposium that looked for ways to improve the program.

ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM HELPS USAR SOLDIERS

By Chuck Prichard
Army Reserve Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Fla. — Severely wounded Army Reserve Soldiers now have access to a program that can help them rebuild their lives.

About 120 Army Reserve Soldiers currently participate in the Army's Wounded Warrior Program, known by its acronym of "AW2."

The AW2 program was established in 2005 from what used to be called the Disabled Soldier Support System. "Its goal is to help severely injured Soldiers get the care they need so they can rebuild their lives," said COL Mary Carstensen, program director.

The program currently serves about 1,500 Soldiers, most of who have been severely wounded in battle. To be eligible for the program, participants must have experienced a life-changing injury such as an amputation, traumatic brain injury, paralysis, blindness or severe burns. Many of the participants fall into more than one of those categories.

In the summer of 2006, Carstensen and her staff held a symposium of about 50 AW2 Soldiers and family members to capture their experiences and look for ways the Army can better serve all wounded Soldiers. Seven Army Reserve Soldiers and families participated in the event.

As the Soldiers and family members talked about their individual experiences, some common themes quickly emerged. Almost all reported being saddened and shocked by the initial news that their loved one had been injured. At the same time, they felt

relieved that their service member was at least still alive. However, those feelings soon gave way to frustration as family members struggled to find their way through a maze of policies, procedures and facilities related to their loved one's care.

> "The care system is good but it could be better. I hope they take our suggestions seriously and fix some of the problems. [...] It is scary enough to be wounded. But trying to figure out where to go for help can be even scarier."
> — 1SG Jesse Acosta

The initial notification process is one of the areas the symposium participants recommended for improvement. The top recommendations from the symposium will be added to the Army Family Action Plan. Once an issue makes the list, it comes to the attention of top Army officials and is not removed from the list until it is resolved.

"The care system is good but it could be better. I hope they take our suggestions seriously and fix some of the problems," said 1SG Jesse Acosta, an Army Reserve Soldier who is in the AW2 program and whose family participated in the symposium.

Acosta, who was blinded during a rocket attack while serving in Iraq in early 2006, hopes that the AW2 will cut down on the bureaucracy that wounded Soldiers often face when seeking treatment. "It is scary enough to be wounded. But trying to figure out where to go for help can be even scarier. With AW2, we only have to go to one place to start looking for answers," said Acosta.

Acosta is a good example of how the AW2 program is responsive to the individual needs of the wounded Soldier. The program is helping Acosta build a new life that does not include his former civilian job as an energy technician nor further service in the Army Reserve. AW2 works with each participant to determine their needs and then identifies ways to fill those needs. In Acosta's case, the program has helped him find training to relearn basic living skills, such as eating and walking, and is also assisting him in exploring new career options.

For more information about the Army Wounded Warrior Program, visit their web page at **www.aw2.army.mil**, send an e-mail to **AW2@hoffman.army.mil** or call (800) 237-1336.

7TH ARCOM SOLDIERS AID IN WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

By SFC Derrick A. Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

LANDSTUHL, Germany — With approximately 750 wounded warriors being treated monthly at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, including some Army Reserve Soldiers, the 7th Army Reserve Command has placed two liaisons at the center to provide support to Army Reserve patients.

SGT Pedro Jimenez, Jr., 454th Replacement Company, Mannheim, Germany, and SSG Robert Van Meter, 793rd Movement Control Team, Kaiserslautern, Germany, are the U.S. Army Reserve's liaisons located at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC). The Soldiers, who are part of the U.S. Army's Wounded Warrior Program, track and monitor wounded and ill Army Reserve Soldiers being treated at LRMC who are supporting military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo. The Army Reserve liaisons also provide Army Reserve Soldiers and their families with assistance during their transition back to duty or during their transition to any continuous care that might be necessary.

On April 30, 2004, the Department of the Army introduced a Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3). On November 10, 2005, the name of the program was officially changed to the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2). This program provides its severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow up support to assist them as they transition back to military service or into the civilian community.

As a directive from GEN Richard Cody, vice chief of staff of the Army, liaisons were placed at LRMC as part of the Wounded Warrior Program to assist wounded or seriously ill Soldiers admitted to the hospital.

Jimenez was trained by SFC Brian Randall, who was the first Army Reserve liaison placed at LRMC. After Randall moved to a new position supporting the 1st Personnel Command in its movement control section at LRMC, Van Meter was brought in and was trained by Jimenez.

Randall said he feels that if the service members didn't have liaisons at Landstuhl to guide them, they would probably be walking around a little confused.

"It's very good to have representatives from each branch of service here, including the Army Reserve and National Guard,

to meet and greet the service members once they arrive so they don't feel so lost upon arrival," said Randall. "All of the active duty units had liaisons on board for all of their units that were downrange at the time of my arrival, but there was no one specifically here for the Army Reserve Soldiers before I was placed here. Now we have two Army Reserve liaisons supporting our Army Reserve patients, which is great."

Jimenez said over the past two years he has assisted in the support of approximately 700 Army Reserve Soldiers.

"The turnover rate here is pretty high," said Jimenez. "We average around 50 Army Reserve Soldiers per month. Our focus is primarily on the Army Reserve Soldiers that come to the hospital, but we do help other service members when we can."

Van Meter said he has been quite humbled by his experience as an Army Reserve liaison.

"When you see wounded Soldiers coming off of the planes, it really catches you by surprise," said Van Meter. "It got to me at first. If it doesn't get to you, then you're not human. It took me a couple of weeks to get adjusted, because like I said, it was very humbling and very heartfelt. So, at the end of the day you really start to feel for these Soldiers and want to know what you can do to make things better for them."

Jimenez said their mission can be quite demanding because of the process they go through to ensure the Army Reserve Soldiers are taken care of. But he added that the hard work is more than worth it.

"So, at the end of the day you really start to feel for these Soldiers and want to know what you can do to make things better for them."
— SSG Robert Van Meter

"I like to think of us as the first line of family for our Army Reserve Soldiers, because, of course, they don't have family here," said Jimenez. "We also offer a lot of moral and other support by taking some of the out-patients on trips around the local area. For the inpatients, we visit with them and maybe bring them various things they may need. Just little things that might not mean much to everybody, but being cooped up in a hospital room, it definitely helps morale."

PHOTO: SFC DERRICK WITHERSPOON

SSG Robert Van Meter (right), 793rd Movement Control Team, Kaiserslautern, Germany, helps SGT Kris Babbes from the 10th Mountain Division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment. Van Meter is one of the Army Reserve liaisons at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center supporting the Army Wounded Warrior Program.

SGM Frederick Bultemeyer, an Army Reserve Soldier who arrived at the hospital from Iraq for an angioplasty, said it was a pleasant surprise to know that the Army Reserve had liaisons on-site to support its wounded and ill personnel and their families at the hospital.

"We didn't even know that such a program existed," said Bultemeyer. "My family and I are so used to going from one point to another without knowing what to expect once we get there, so it was great to get this type of reception in our situation."

Jimenez and Van Meter assisted Bultemeyer and his family during his time at LRMC. Bultemeyer's family was brought to Europe through the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program. The family was also housed at the Army's Landstuhl Fisher House.

Bultmeyer's wife, Louan Bultemeyer, said the Army Reserve liaisons were there to answer all of her questions and were extremely attentive to their needs.

"This program is extremely important to family members as well as the Soldiers," said Mrs. Bultemeyer. "For those who may have to use this service in the future, the liaisons will take care of you. You don't have to worry about what you're going to do once you get here. They take care of everything and are extremely knowledgeable in every aspect of their mission."

GUARDIAN ANGEL PROGRAM TO KEEP SOLDIERS SAFE

By Gregory Berge
Safety Office
U.S. Army Reserve Command

Atlanta, Ga. — Coming home can be a wonderful experience for an Army Reserve Soldier who has been deployed and essentially on duty all day, every day for extended periods of time. A Soldier can return home drained and stressed after spending a year or more enduring austere conditions, dangerous missions, 12-hour or longer work shifts and limited contact with their loved ones. So when they return home, some Soldiers may be looking to decompress and cut loose a bit.

Soldiers face a readjustment period upon returning home. The environment is a lot different than what they were accustomed to downrange. Driving will not be the same as the rules of the road are definitely different. Additionally, social interaction and over-indulgence can be a challenge for the Soldier suddenly back on the block.

But being deployed actually has one advantage — it puts Soldiers in the care of their fellow service members 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Thus, they have constant reminders to be safety conscious. Now, the Army leadership has adopted a program called Operation Guardian Angel aimed at keeping Soldiers safe at home as well.

The Guardian Angel program is a proactive safety program which promotes active relationships and involvement with Soldiers by members of the Soldiers' home community. Getting the Soldiers' family members, friends and community personally involved in helping to keep their troops safe when they return from deployment is the goal of Operation Guardian Angel.

> "Getting family and friends involved in the welfare of Soldiers adds a meaningful, personal aspect Soldiers identify with."
> — Ed Hoffman, U.S. Army Reserve Command

While on duty Soldiers can hardly avoid the Army's emphasis on safety. Leaders continually educate and train their Soldiers on safety issues and accident prevention whether their units are deployed or at home station. Units become more cohesive while deployed.

"Buddies can take care of each other and watch each other's backs," said Ed Hoffman, U.S. Army Reserve Command safety director. "But once the Soldiers return home, the safety net provided by their buddies downrange is no longer there. Keeping Soldiers safe even when they're beyond the immediate reach of military leadership, is what Operation Guardian Angel is all about."

Hoffman says that during this time of vulnerability is when we need families, friends and people who care to provide safety oversight. "Our Army Reserve Soldiers need the help of a Guardian Angel. There are many people throughout our communities who would like to contribute in some way to supporting our warrior-citizens. This is a small way of helping to protect that Soldier during their non-duty time," he said.

"The program reinforces the safety briefings that Soldiers have already received downrange and during de-mobilization. Getting family and friends involved in the welfare of Soldiers adds a meaningful, personal aspect Soldiers identify with," said Hoffman.

"We're asking for people in the community to continue to support and possibly save the lives of our great Soldiers by helping to remind them to remain safe, by stopping, thinking, observing, planning, and then proceeding (STOPP) always," he said.

Additional information concerning Operation Guardian Angel program can be found by visiting the Combat Readiness Center Web site at: **https://crcapps2.crc.army.mil/guardianangel/index.html**

FALLEN SOLDIER MONUMENT CEREMONY EMOTIONAL

By Bob Williams
Public Affairs Office
90th Regional Readiness Command

North Little Rock, Ark. — The heavily overcast Sunday morning and the waving American flag set the tone for the beginning of an emotional and somber ceremony for the 90th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Fallen Soldier Monument Dedication on Sept. 17, 2006.

The words "You Are Not Forgotten" inscribed near the top of the stark black marble slab were clearly visible to all as the official party solemnly marched single file to the front of the gathering to begin the ceremony. At the base of the monument is the symbol appropriately called The Soldier's Cross, which is used by the U.S. Army to honor deceased Soldiers during ceremonies. A bronzed M-16 rifle was stuck into the ground by its attached bayonet, a helmet and dog tags hung from the rifle butt and a pair of boots with the laces untied was set in front of the rifle.

Four smaller monuments, each bearing the name, unit and date of death for the 90th RRC Soldiers who died while deployed are located in front. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 10,400 Tough 'Ombres had been mobilized. These monuments represent the only four who have not returned.

The four Soldiers whose names appear on the smaller monuments are: SPC Jonathan M. Cheatham, Company A, 489th Engineer Battalion, Hot Springs, Ark.; SPC Juan M. Torres, 453rd Transportation Company, Houston, Texas; SPC Lauro G. Deleon, Jr., 644th Transportation Company, Beaumont, Texas; and SGT Roberto Arizola, Jr., 850th Combat Service Company, Laredo, Texas. Members of the family of each Soldier attended and were later pictured with the small monument honoring their loved one.

The featured speakers were MG Alan D. Bell, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the Honorable Vic Snyder, Arkansas' Second District Congressman and MG James R. Sholar, 90th RRC commanding general, who hosted the ceremony.

Chaplain (COL) James Ryan began the program with an invocation. He said, "The monument is dedicated to those who have served their country and given of themselves. Those who returned have joined in praise and resolve that their deaths should not be in vain."

Bell said, "I feel great honor to be able to participate in these ceremonies, to honor these who gave their lives."

He then discussed the personal history of each of the four and their military jobs, "Their service will never be forgotten," said Bell.

"The words on the monument, 'You Are Not Forgotten,' can mean so much. It could be said of all who serve and sacrifice," said Snyder. "Today we come in grief, in memory of their service, united that we remember them and those who still serve."

Two platoons of Soldiers from Company A, 489th Engr. Bn. from the 90th RRC were brought to the position of attention for the honors segment of the memorial ceremony.

Three commands of "Fire" were each followed by a loud report that resounded through the area causing some in the guest section to react to the sound.

As the honor guard from Co. A came to "Present Arms," the sad sound of Taps moved slowly through the morning air, eliciting emotion from many in the audience.

CPT Justin Kilpatrick and 1SG Randy Rostan marched forward in unison, carrying a large red and white wreath which they placed at the base of the monument. Kilpatrick had been the company commander of Company A, 489th Engr. Bn. when Cheatham was killed in Iraq. Rostan had been the unit's first sergeant. They both saluted slowly and executed an "about face."

Wendell Hall from North Little Rock, Ark., began playing the poignant sounds on his bagpipe and the familiar strains of "Amazing Grace" filled the area as Kilpatrick and Rostan slowly moved to the rear. The sounds of suffering and sadness could still be heard.

Scholar stepped forward to close the service. "We gather today to honor the lives of these four Soldiers. We cannot, we will not forget these four.

[RIGHT] The monument in front of the 90th RRC headquarters reflects SPC Cheatham's mother, Barbara Porchia, during the ceremony.

PHOTO: SFC LARRY MEARS

YOU ARE
NOT
FORGOTTEN

They have left a legacy of strength, courage, compassion and caring and we commemorate their valor and patriotism."

"It is an honor to share this day with you. We honor the memory of these four Soldiers by the actions we have taken. We share that with the families; we are family, we will always be family," Scholar said.

Following the ceremony, Monica Arizola, wife of SGT Arizola, said, "I appreciated the music a lot, although it was emotionally overwhelming."

"I take it one day at a time," she responded when asked about living life without her husband. "Sometimes I take it 50 minutes at a time. Our eight-year old son asks about his daddy all the time; why God took him from him. I can't bring him back. If I could speak and it would stop this, I would."

"I come to these ceremonies to show my son that his father was honorable," concluded Arizola as she wiped her eyes with a once dry tissue.

CHAPLAINS ATTEND BATTLE HARDENING TRAINING

By CPT Lora Neal
Public Affairs Office
90th Regional Readiness Command

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The history of chaplains serving in combat led to the theme of "Battle Hardening and Recovery of the Unit Ministry Team" (UMT) at the Chaplain's Annual Sustainment Training (CAST) held in May 2006 in San Antonio, Texas.

The concept of chaplains serving on the battlefield is as old as war. In Biblical times the Tribe of Levi, the priests, were warriors charged with protecting the Ark of the Covenant.

In 1791, GEN George Washington recommended including a chaplain in each of the four regiments in the new United States Army. During the War of 1812, Chaplain James J. Wilmer of Maryland died in service. During the Civil War, 66 Union chaplains and 25 Confederate chaplains died in service.

But what about today? Why and how do chaplains prepare for battle?

"Battle hardening is the preparation a unit ministry team makes in order to care for itself so that ministry is sustained in a combat environment," said Chap. (LTC) James Brown, 90th Regional Readiness Command assistant staff chaplain, "For example, spiritual preparation is being ready to minister to Soldiers in combat. This means that the chaplain has to be spiritually in tune with God. We help Soldiers make sense out of a chaotic situation," Brown said. "Mental preparation is preparing oneself to be equipped to know what to do in combat. You fight as you train. Physical preparation is being physically fit to handle the stresses of providing care to Soldiers who are hurting and seeking answers to life's greatest question, 'What is my purpose in life?' " said Brown.

"Finally, emotional preparation is keeping a control on your own emotions so that you can minister to others who are breaking down," Brown said.

On June 30, 1950, President Harry Truman authorized the use of U.S. Far East ground forces in response to the Republic of Korea Army's inability to repel the North Korean Army (NKA) invasion. As commander of the 24th Infantry Division, MG William F. Dean ordered his unit to be the first of the Eighth Army's four divisions to reach Korea.

"Spiritual preparation is being ready to minister to Soldiers in combat. This means that the chaplain has to be spiritually in tune with God. We help Soldiers make sense out of a chaotic situation."
— Chap. (LTC) James Brown

Every effort of "Dean's Delay," as it was called, to stop the communist advance was met by seemingly endless streams of the NKA. One of the first heavy battles raged for five days in July 1950 near Taejon and the Kum River. Among the men involved were those of the 19th Infantry Regiment. Herman G. Felhoelter was one of their chaplains.

Felhoelter was just north of Taejon on July 16, making his way up a hill across the Kum River with roughly 100 other men. They were carrying nearly 30 wounded while attempting to escape the enemy force that overpowered them.

By the time Felhoelter's group reached the top of the hill, it was obvious that they could not continue carrying the injured and still escape the advancing North Koreans.

The chaplain convinced a medical officer to leave with the others while he remained behind with the wounded. After several minutes, a sergeant turned and stared through binoculars at the pitiful group they had left behind. He watched in

disbelief as enemy Soldiers overcame the suffering men and murdered them all, including the chaplain praying over them. Only 11 days after American Soldiers had entered the fight, the first Army chaplain lay dead on the battlefield. Felhoelter's 37th birthday would have been the next day. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

"A chaplain conducts ministry as a representative of his or her denomination," Brown said. "However, we are the chaplain for every Soldier within our area of operations. We cannot perform ministry that is outside our religious tradition, but the chaplain is responsible to make sure that each Soldier has the opportunity to worship."

"The chaplain and chaplain assistant have to survive on the battlefield," Brown said.

"The UMT must have awareness of the battlefield because it will be providing ministry to the Soldiers as far forward as the battle will allow. Once the battle begins, the UMT will locate itself at the battalion aid station to provide care for wounded and dying. When the battle is over, the UMT moves forward to minister to Soldiers and help them reconnect to the spiritual aspect of life."

He said, "Recovery occurs after a UMT has been in a combat environment. It is the process of total restoration of mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of the UMT members so they are prepared to continue ministry."

This year's training helped to ensure that, when the battles are raging, both literally and figuratively, the chaplains will be there for the Soldiers.

PHOTO: CPT LORA NEAL

The panel of wounded warriors included (seated from left) Marine Sergeant Alejandro Delrio, SSG Jerry Majetic, and Army SSG James P. Swinney. Standing is Brian Neumann, now retired, who worked with the Wounded Warrior Project. Each Soldier and Marine shared his experience with the audience of Unit Ministry Teams at Brooke Army Medical Center. They talked about their faith, their ongoing challenges and victories and their unfailing patriotism.

75TH DIVISION HONORS FORGOTTEN WWII HERO

MAJ Bill Gazis
Public Affairs Office
75th Division

Sunday, Nov. 5, 2006, was a special day for Elwood Lawler of Houston, Texas. More than 60 years after completing his World War II tour of duty in the European theater with the U.S. Army, CPL Lawler, 92, was awarded the medals he never received upon completion of his honorable service. In a ceremony attended by scores of family and friends, the Soldiers of the 75th Division watched as MG Steve Best, division commander, pinned the long-overdue medals to the pocket of Lawler's suit jacket.

Lawler served with the 1266th Combat Engineer Battalion under GEN George S. Patton Jr.'s Third Army in the European theater of operations. Shortly after Germany's surrender to the Allied forces, he was severely wounded in a training accident at Camp Marles outside Marseilles, France. After initial treatment for his wounds in France, Lawler was subsequently transferred to William Beaumont Army Hospital at Fort Bliss, Texas for his recovery and rehabilitation. He was discharged from the Army upon completion of his stay at the hospital without ever receiving recognition for his duty.

Throughout 2006, Lawler's daughter, Jane Ferguson, assisted by her relative, COL (ret.) James Johnson, spent countless hours and expended great effort working with various governmental agencies to ensure the former Soldier received what was owed him for his distinguished service. Best presented Lawler with the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the WWII Honorable Service lapel pin.

PHOTO: MAJ BILL GAZIS

World War II veteran CPL Elwood Lawler, 92, is escorted by his daughter, Jane Ferguson, after his address to friends, family, and Soldiers of the 75th Division.

During his remarks, Best spoke of being honored to be asked to perform the awards ceremony and said it was a fine example of the Army taking care of its own. Lawler then regaled the assembled crowd with stories of his time in the Army. His remarks were often interrupted by laughter as he spoke of specific memories of his time in Europe. Ferguson and Johnson also spoke, expressing both their admiration for Lawler and their thanks to the 75th Division for hosting the event.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, scores of division Soldiers waited their turn to personally greet the WWII hero. It was a special day that no one in attendance will soon forget.

OPERATION SANTA SURPRISE: PRO FOOTBALL TEAM HONORS ARMY RESERVE FAMILIES

By LTC Leela Dawson
314th Public Affairs Detachment

MIAMI, Fla. The holidays are a special time for a lot of people around the world, but Christmas 2006 had special meaning and recognition from the National Football League's Miami Dolphins for family members of Army Reserve Soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

As the second half of Operation Santa Surprise, three families of Soldiers of the 723rd Main Support Company (MSC) were honored on the field at Dolphins Stadium Christmas night. The game against the N.Y. Jets was nearly a sold-out Monday Night Football game despite the pouring rain.

More than 73,000 drenched NFL fans cheered after watching video on the jumbotrons of the first part of Operation Santa Surprise that reunited Soldiers and their families via satellite and Miami's *NBC 6* earlier in December at the Dolphins training facility.

The first half of Operation Santa Surprise occurred on Dec. 5, when families toured the Miami Dolphins training facility, met players, staff and cheerleaders and were then honored by their Soldiers through the Army's Freedom Team Salute (FTS) program.

The Soldiers nominated their spouses and parents for an Army Freedom Team Salute commendation for their support. Soldiers submitted their nominations directly to a Freedom Team Salute Ambassador for the special occasion. However, all Soldiers can submit directly through **www.freedomteamsalute.com**.

Following the tour and meetings, the Dolphins hosted the Freedom Team Salute commendations which provided the introduction for the main surprise — a live link-up with their

loved ones in Afghanistan. The parents and spouses were ecstatic and the players, cheerleaders and staff were noticeably touched when they saw the Soldiers on the training room's large screen. Miami's *NBC 6* was there to also capture the story.

Dolphin's linebackers Zach Thomas and Channing Crowder both commented how honored they were to be doing something special for the families and thanked the Soldiers for their service and sacrifices.

"Many Soldiers are very young and may not realize how much this (FTS program) could mean to their families," said Tina Ognibene, wife of SGT John Ognibene. "When I heard that my husband nominated me I was very deeply touched. This was an acknowledgment of the sacrifices I make to support him. I truly believe every Soldier should recognize a loved one or an employer through FTS for what they do to support their military career."

After the game the families thanked the Dolphins and the Army for bringing together this special opportunity.

Doreen Vargas, mother of SGT David Vargas said, "I was proud to be the mother of someone who is dedicated to serving our country and seeing him on the big screen during the Dolphins game made my heart swell with pride."

"I have the certificate hanging in my office and proudly tell everyone who asks me about it, that my husband nominated me and that the Miami Dolphins made it possible for me to see my husband while he is thousands of miles away in Afghanistan. It was an experience I will never forget and cherish for the rest of my life," beamed Ognibene.

SFC Norman Ferguson said, "These deployed warriors will not forget the recognition given them and their families and it demonstrates the community's commitment to support the U.S. Army Reserve Warrior-Citizens." Ferguson is the unit's first sergeant.

The 723rd MSC is a unique Army Reserve unit that provides direct support to an active duty unit with a mission of providing combat service support, level II augmented combat health support, limited engineer construction support, mortuary affairs, and aerial delivery support (parachute riggers) to support Army Special Operations Forces worldwide.

The Soldiers of the 723rd have been actively supporting operations in Afghanistan and Iraq in the Global War on Terrorism. ARM

PHOTO: ANTHONY GRAY

Family members of the 723rd Main Support Company gather with Miami Dolphins players, staff and cheerleaders at the Dolphins training facility after their tour.

UPDATE ON
Operation Iraqi Freedom

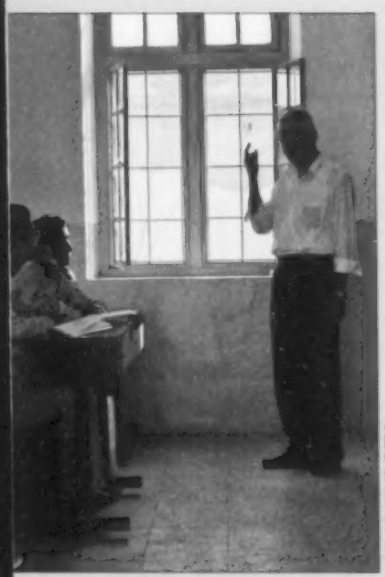

PHOTO: SGT MICHAEL TUTTLE

Class is underway at the Musalla Secondary School in Kirkuk, Iraq. The school re-opened, along with an elementary school in the city, after being renovated as part of a program that will serve as a model for other schools in the region.

RENOVATED SCHOOLS SET EXAMPLE IN IRAQ

By SGT Michael Tuttle
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KIRKUK, Iraq — Two schools re-opened in Kirkuk, Iraq in October 2006 after being renovated as part of a program that will serve as a model for other schools in the area.

Musalla Secondary School students proudly hung their country and school flags on the freshly painted walls of their refurbished school in preparation for a ceremony attended by local officials.

The secondary school and a city elementary school are the first of six to be renovated as part of the program.

"These schools were developed to set the example for Kirkuk," said Army Reserve MAJ Paul Beekman, team chief, 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Tonawanda, N.Y. "The Board of Education can go in and look at the schools and the equipment and emulate it throughout the region."

The plan was implemented through the Commander's Emergency Response Program using funds authorized by Congress to restore Iraq. Local Iraqis were contracted to do the work over the summer while students were out of school.

The construction included a science laboratory featuring new computers. Students will now benefit from the improved learning atmosphere and the equipment.

"The school looks brand new and the environment will enable the students to be more focused," said science teacher, Mr. Adel, through an interpreter. "The lab is a big improvement, allowing the students to learn hands-on."

"Musalla students were previously confined to small classrooms which limited the science projects they could work on. The new lab was designed with bigger rooms so that more students can get involved," Beekman said.

School supplies such as paper and pencils were donated by individuals stateside.

Computer desks and other materials used to furnish the laboratory were donated by a non-governmental agency.

3RD MEDCOM TAKES OVER IRAQI THEATER MEDICAL SERVICES

By SPC Sean C. Finch
Public Affairs Office
Multi National Corps — Iraq

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — Atlanta based 3rd Medical Command took over command and control for all medical services in the Iraqi theater following a ceremony held at the Al Faw Palace ballroom in Baghdad on Sept. 28, 2006. The 3d MEDCOM replaced the 30th Medical Brigade from Heidelberg, Germany.

The 3rd MEDCOM arrived in Iraq in late August 2006, with the mission of continuing to improve every aspect of the medical system for U.S. Soldiers and Iraqis.

"The 30th Medical Brigade, like the units before them, set very high standards, and we are proud to follow in those footsteps," said MG Ronald D. Silverman, commander, 3rd Medical Command. "I'm confident that 3rd MEDCOM will continue the trend of becoming a model for other teams to learn from. 30th Medical Brigade is the best medical brigade in the Army, and 3rd Medical Command is by far the best MEDCOM in the world."

"As we continue, we will show the world how a vastly diverse group of people like you see in this room today — different races, different religions and different beliefs — can work and live together in peace," said Silverman. He also said that Soldiers in Iraq can rest assured that they will continue to get excellent medical support.

The Soldiers of the 30th Medical Brigade will redeploy to Heidelberg to help maintain and support Soldiers stationed throughout Europe and the Middle East.

PHOTO: SSG SAMUEL MCLARTY

MG Ronald D. Silverman (right) commander of the 3rd Medical Command, and CSM Roger Schulz, 3rd MEDCOM Command Sgt. Maj., assisted by SPC Desmond Porter, G-3 administrative specialist, unroll the unit colors at the Transfer of Authority ceremony held at the Al Faw Palace ballroom, Baghdad, Iraq.

1SG REMEMBERS 9-11 AS A GROUND ZERO COP

By SGT Carlos M. Burger II
40th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — As his unit's trucks leave this logistics hub each day, a first sergeant is driven by the Sept. 11, 2001, events in New York City where he experienced the aftermath of the terrorist attacks as a policeman at ground zero.

Deployed to Q-West with New York's 773rd Transportation Company, 1SG Vincent Mannion said he feels a sense of obligation to honor the victims of Sept. 11. Along with other Soldiers from his Army Reserve unit, Mannion participated in a remembrance ceremony hosted by the 71st Corps Support Battalion.

Mannion described the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, as a typical end to a long shift. He and his partner were finishing their plain clothes assignment when a radio message urged them back to the command station.

"We heard sirens and saw fire trucks everywhere," Mannion said. "We knew something big had happened, but we weren't sure what."

When they discovered that one of the towers had been hit by a plane, Mannion first thought it was another accident. "A few years before, a small aircraft had accidentally hit one of the towers, so that was our first thought," he said.

As they drove to the command station, they heard the second tower had been hit as well.

"At that point, we knew it was not an accident," Mannion said. "We immediately thought the worst and were trying everything we could to get back to the command station as soon as possible."

Once there, Mannion rushed to change into his uniform. As he was putting on his gear, he watched television coverage as the first tower collapsed.

"I had a lot of mixed emotions at that moment," Mannion explained. "I knew right then and there the entire world had changed. We wanted to call our families and let them know we were okay, but we couldn't because the job came first."

Mannion said there were thousands of people downtown that morning and he and his partner feared many lives were lost. They just hoped it wasn't anyone they knew and rushed to guard the subway tunnels.

In the following days, Mannion did his job guarding the tunnels, but constantly offered his help at ground zero. Eventually, his offer was accepted.

"At first, we weren't allowed to go down because they said they had enough people to help," Mannion explained. "Of course our job was important guarding the tunnels. We just wanted to do more to help, so when they started to let us down there, we became part of the bucket brigade and the rescue efforts."

The "bucket brigade" consisted of police officers, firefighters and volunteers who would painstakingly sift through the rubble with rakes and buckets looking for any kind of identification — or remains.

PHOTO: SPC KYNDAL HERNANDEZ

1SG Vincent Mannion awaits departure of a fuel supply mission for the 733rd Transportation Company.

"We were digging for anything significant, anything that would give people closure," Mannion said. "It was really sad because there were police officers and firefighters actually looking for their friends, and fathers looking for their sons."

"It was something I will never forget," he added.

Mannion said that the most memorable moments were the tributes to the victims who were found at ground zero. Each time victims were found, the brigade of volunteers stopped their work to salute, or pay respect, as the remains were transported out of the "hole" on a stretcher draped with an American flag.

Because of his experience, Mannion said he was compelled to do his part in the War on Terrorism. He has served 23 years in the military, and is on his third deployment — serving in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I came out here by choice. The Army didn't say, 'Hey, you have to go.' I said to the Army, 'I want to go.'"

9-11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY CPT SURVIVES WTC, FIGHTS WAR ON TERRORISM

By SPC Kyndal Hernandez
Public Affairs
45th Sustainment Brigade

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Five years after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, an Army Reserve captain and World Trade Center survivor commands a New York unit deployed to Iraq.

CPT Thomas Sullivan, commander of the 773rd Transportation Company at Q-West, experienced the attacks on the World Trade Center from the 95th floor of the South Tower. He and Soldiers from this New York Reserve unit participated in a remembrance ceremony in honor of the victims of Sept. 11.

Sullivan had worked for Fiduciary Trust Company International as a performance analyst since 1996. Until Sept. 11, 2001, the company's office occupied four floors of the South Tower.

On that day, Sullivan arrived for work at 7:30 a.m. just like any other day, but a broader smile may have revealed he had good news to share.

"I had gone into my office to send out e-mails to friends and family members to tell them the news that my wife was pregnant with twins," Sullivan said.

After clicking the "send" key, he made his way to his boss' office to share the exciting news with him.

"As we sat there in his office laughing and joking, I noticed something out of the corner of my eye," Sullivan said.

At that moment — about 8:46 a.m. — the first plane hit the North Tower.

"We both jumped to the floor, and I could feel the concussion and the heat immediately," Sullivan said.

As the deputy fire warden for his floor, Sullivan instinctively began evacuating all personnel on his floor after the explosion.

Within minutes his section was clear, and Sullivan made his way to the stairwell. He began his descent running and jumping down the stairs.

Sullivan was 30 floors closer to escaping — on the 65th floor stairwell — when the second plane hit the South Tower just 13 stories above him.

"The building shook unbelievably. I could feel a subtle burst of warm air and light debris and dust coming down the stairwell." By then, a throng of people poured into the stairwell for the long journey to the ground floor. But when they finally made it, they could not exit the building because of glass and other debris falling dangerously from the building.

Along with the crowd, Sullivan turned back to the stairwell in hopes of finding another exit through the basement.

"When we finally exited the building, there was fire, smoke and debris everywhere," Sullivan said. "I told my co-workers that I was going to head to the Staten Island Ferry."

A few minutes after he made it to the street, the South Tower began to collapse.

"When the building started to collapse, I started to run but the thick cloud of dust that came made it very difficult to see and breathe," Sullivan said.

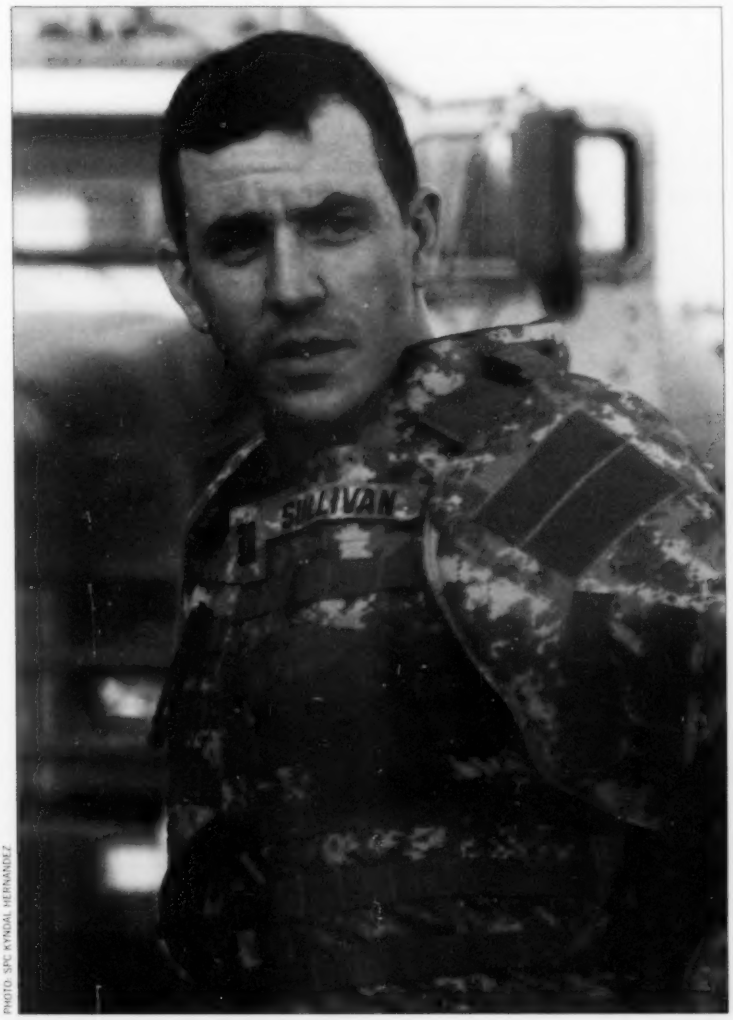

PHOTO: SPC KYNDAL HERNANDEZ

CPT Thomas Sullivan looks out for his Soldiers during convoy rehearsals.

He made it to the Staten Island Ferry but to his dismay, it was closed. Like thousands of other people, he began walking toward the Brooklyn Bridge for the long journey home.

"As we were walking to the bridge, the North Tower collapsed. It collapsed right in front of our eyes."

After walking about eight miles, Sullivan found a phone to call his family. He said it had been more than two hours since anyone had heard from him. His family had feared the worst.

"The next few days were worse than the event itself," Sullivan explained. "I had received dozens of calls from my friends' and coworkers' family members, asking if I had seen their loved ones."

Months later, Sullivan continued to have trouble coping with the tragedy he had been through.

"I went to ground zero once to assist, but I could not bear it for too long. They seemed to have all the help they needed, and I was not up for the task physically or mentally."

Sullivan said it took him a few months to deal with the events that transpired that day.

"My service to this country and being here on the memorable day of Sept. 11 is how I honor the people who lost their lives that day. That was a day that should be remembered forever, a day we as Americans should pay tribute to, and a day that I will never forget."

ARMY RESERVE PROVIDES KEY MEDICAL CARE TO AMERICAN AND COALITION TROOPS

By MAJ Bobby Hart
Public Affairs
TF3 MEDCOM

BAGHDAD, Iraq — America's men and women in uniform injured during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom are surviving those injuries at a rate of more than 90 percent — the highest survivability rate in the history of warfare — and Army Reserve Soldiers are playing a critical role in the care of those troops.

MG Ronald Silverman serves as commander of the Army Reserve's 3rd Medical Command (MEDCOM) from Fort Gillem, Ga., the command and control element for TF3 (Task Force 3) MEDCOM, with approximately 30 medical units — including seven from the Army Reserve — and nearly 3,000 service members.

TF3 MEDCOM is comprised of Army Reserve, National Guard, and active duty Soldiers as well as the 332nd Expeditionary Air Wing's Air Force Theater Hospital and provides a full spectrum of health care throughout Iraq with its combat support hospitals and multifunctional medical battalions which include such skills as dental, veterinarian, preventative medicine, combat stress and pathology. The combat support hospitals have been featured on HBO's "Baghdad ER," CNN's "Combat Hospital," 60 Minutes' "A Fighting Chance" and National Geographic's "The Heroes, The Healing."

PHOTO: 1LT ISREAL VALEZ

SPC Adam Gloekler, combat medic with the 329th Medical Co., Erie, Pa., examines an Iraqi baby at the Civil Military Operations Center.

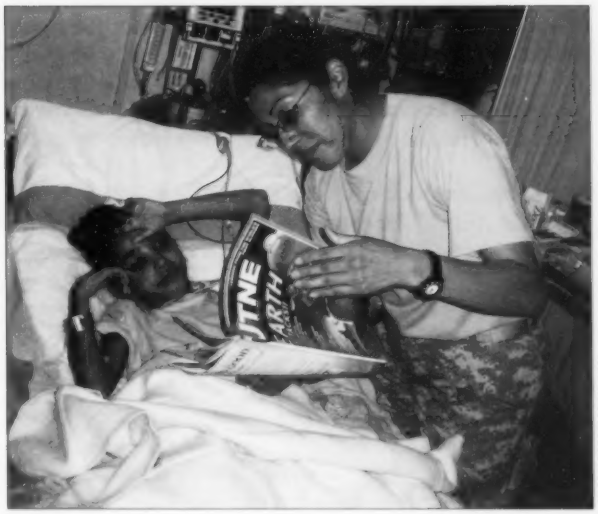

PHOTO: CPT REBECCA SHEIBEL

SGT Esmeralda Briones, 399th Combat Support Hospital, reads a book to a young amputee in Tikrit, Iraq.

Reserve elements such as the 329th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance), the 1437th Medical Detachment (Entomology) and the 790th Medical Detachment (Preventative Medicine) augment the combat support hospitals and help the medical community provide coalition troops with the best medical care ever in a battlefield environment.

"Army Reserve Soldiers bring an area of expertise to the battlefield that is sometimes outside the realm of the active component," Silverman said. "Our physicians, our nurses and especially our medical technicians don't necessarily focus their entire civilian career on the MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) that they have. Therefore when they come, they bring with them expertise, experience and training that might be vastly different than that of their active duty counterparts."

Third MEDCOM is the Army's only deployable theater-level medical command and is made up of Soldiers from 37 different states. Silverman is the highest ranking medical officer in Iraq and his deployment with TF3 MEDCOM marks the first time a dental officer has had command and control over the entire spectrum of medical services in a combat zone.

"I'm coming in as commander of Task Force 3 and senior commander of medical troops within the theater," Silverman said. "As such, I cover all areas. My specialty being dentistry is just one specialty. It would make no difference if I was a pediatrician; it would make no difference if I was a neurologist."

"What is important is your ability to command and control the troops that are under you," Silverman said. "No one person can have the medical knowledge of all aspects of medical care that is given in theater. What is important is being able to organize and command and control."

One of the biggest challenges facing TF3 MEDCOM has been integrating into the culture and lifestyle of the Iraqi people. "Providing health care to the Americans and the coalition is really the easy part of our job," Silverman said. "We have worked well as a team with the Air Force and all the other components. The difficult thing has been dealing with the Iraqi system in building their health care system in both the civilian sector and in the military to the point where they'll be able to completely take care of their own people."

He also said one of the key things the Reserve Soldiers bring to the fight is a maturity level due to their higher age. "One of the first contrasts that I noticed was the difference in the age disparity between the Reserve Soldier and active duty Soldiers," Silverman said. "The average age of a nurse in an active-duty hospital is 24, while the average age of a Reserve nurse is 43. It's not only their experience, it's the personal maturity level that makes a difference in how they handle the stress."

Perhaps the keystone for the Reserve contributions to the medical care in Iraq is the 399th Combat Support Hospital (CSH), an Army Reserve unit from Massachusetts, which operates two separate hospitals including one in the western portion of the country — an area known to troops as the "Wild, Wild West." The area is rivaled only by Baghdad for frequency and ferocity of combat action. It is to these facilities and other TF3 MEDCOM facilities that the most seriously injured Coalition troops, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army and Security personnel, civilians and even insurgents are brought.

"We've gotten very focused, very quickly said COL Bryan Kelly, commander of the 399th CSH. "We understand where we are and why we're here — in a war zone, to save lives. For us, all the other issues of this conflict are incidental."

Kelly agreed with Silverman on what the Reserve Soldiers contribute, "They bring a unique mix of talent to the mission from their respective civilian occupations that would otherwise not be realized in mission development and execution. It is clearly the edge that our Reserve Force brings to the fight," Kelly said.

Besides the urgent treatment of wounded troops, perhaps one of the most important roles TF3 MEDCOM plays is the treatment of combat stress. Two of the task force's three combat stress control detachments — the 1972nd and 113th Medical Detachments are Army Reserve units.

"We try to be proactive in the treatment of combat stress," Silverman said. "We take the reports from the combatant units in the field and try to send our people down to check on the troops before the commanders have to ask. When you have troops that are killing and being killed on a regular basis, you have to be real aggressive in providing them the support they need to combat negative psychological issues."

One of the ways TF3 MEDCOM did this is by creating a website, Combat Stress Center.com, which averaged nearly 350 hits per day in November, 2006.

And Reserve contributions go beyond just the treatment and prevention of injuries and illness. At the Jameson Combat Medic Training Centers, Soldiers from TF3 MEDCOM train medics from units throughout the country as well as civilian contractors to enable first line responders to better treat casualties in the critical "Golden Hour" — the first 60 minutes following an injury where improved care has been credited with much of the success of the high survivability rate of this conflict.

TF3 MEDCOM also manages an instructional program that trains Iraqi medics in Baghdad that will facilitate the recovery of the Iraqi medical system and help the Iraqis move toward the time when they are able to adequately maintain their own system.

The success Soldiers are having in the emergency rooms throughout Iraq — despite dealing with the most horrendous injuries imaginable — rival that of any trauma center in the world in spite of the fact the hospitals are in a combat zone with huge challenges to sanitation and frequent attacks by mortars and rockets.

The conditions justify the long weeks of training Army Reserve Soldiers undertook at mobilization stations prior to deployment where they conducted basic soldiering skills like responding to mortar attacks and convoy operations.

"In a blink, you could go from doing surgery on a patient to being that unlucky someone on the operating table," said MAJ Brian Vicharyous, an orthopedic surgeon with the 399th CSH. "Everyone is mindful of the danger. But you can only spend so much time worrying about yourself. Your main concern has got to stay with the patients."

PHOTO: 1LT ISRAEL VELEZ

SGT Joseph Perenic, SGT Joshua Abers and SPC Beth Copeland, 329th Medical Company, transfer an Iraq patient from a U.S. ambulance to an Iraqi ambulance for delivery to an Iraqi medical facility.

CIVIL AFFAIRS MEDIC TEACHES LIFESAVING SKILLS TO IRAQI POLICE

By MAJ Bruce D. Hutchison
402nd Civil Affairs Battalion

KIRKUK, Iraq — One day in late November 2006, Charlie Company's medic leaned over a prostrate Iraqi policeman, applying direct pressure and a bandage to the man's abdomen. A moment later, the medic was at the side of another Iraqi, quickly and carefully wrapping a tourniquet around his leg. A third policeman received a tourniquet on his arm and a bandage to his head. On this day, SSG Jason Chang applied more than 20 tourniquets and bandages to six Iraqi Policemen, without the loss of a single drop of blood.

Bloodless, because Chang, medic and health care specialist for Company C, 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Tonawanda, N.Y., was teaching the first of several special life saving courses to a half-dozen Iraqi police serving in Kirkuk. The courses, organized by the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kirkuk, are in addition to Chang's everyday work as medic with his civil affairs unit.

PHOTO: MAJ BRUCE HUTCHISON

SSG Jason Chang explains how to provide emergency medical aid to a group of Iraqi policemen in Kirkuk, Iraq. Chang is a medic for Company C, 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion based near Kirkuk.

Working with an Iraqi interpreter, Chang quickly established a personal rapport with his students. They were eager to learn and soon came out of their shell and even started joking around, according to Chang.

"The shared humor," he added, "provided a relaxed atmosphere conducive to learning and understanding."

"I was providing them with the type of training they would need in an emergency situation," Chang said. After watching several demonstrations, Charlie Company's medic passed out tourniquets and bandages and let the policemen learn by doing. "They seemed eager to learn, and went above and beyond my expectations." Since tourniquets and bandages aren't always available in an emergency, Chang demonstrated how to use whatever tools are at hand, such as a simple belt for a tourniquet.

As the session progressed, Chang watched his six students apply tourniquets and bandages to each other. Pleased with their success, Chang said Iraqi police forces could one day save the lives of coalition force Soldiers: "I figure since we'll be working hand in hand with them, coalition Forces have a better chance of survival if the Iraqi police are trained to the same level we are."

Chang is an Army Reserve NCO who manages a supermarket in Coral Springs, Fla., in his civilian career.

DESERT WINDS WALKING CLUB KEEPS SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS FIT

By LTC Mike Walton
Public Affairs Office
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT — Some Soldiers and civilians at Camp Arifjan have adopted a new form of recreation early in the morning and during lunch hours — walking or running within the camp while wearing their Improved Ballistic Armor (IBA) with the plates inside, over their standard physical training (PT) gear.

These people belong to the newly formed Desert Winds Walking Club, sponsored by the 335th Theater Signal Command (TSC) at Camp Afrijan, Kuwait. The 335th is the command providing theater-level information management and telecommunications support to forces supporting the Coalition Land Forces Component Command (CLFCC). The Army multi-component command is headquartered at Afrijan with a rear headquartered at Forest Park, Ga.

Club leader and organizer MAJ Rebecca Gimenez said the reason behind starting the club was to give Soldiers and civilians a fun way to get into shape or lose weight.

"Group walking improves the fitness of the individual, allows for morale building, and when wearing some of the protective equipment while walking prepares Soldiers for the impact on their bodies when using full 'Battle Rattle' in theater," Ginemez said.

Gimenez, who works in the command's operations (G-3) office, has been walking at a very fast pace since she arrived in Kuwait

in late 2006, Around the camp, she can out-walk some of those slow-driving buses between stops.

The original idea was to give those who must walk under a permanent profile, as part of their physical training, or PT biannual testing, an opportunity to get in some additional practice between record tests.

"Many people find it hard to motivate themselves to do PT on their own, while others just enjoy the morale builder of walking and talking with other Soldiers.

Still others find the challenge of walking with someone who is more fit than themselves is good, because they can push themselves to limits that they might otherwise fail to reach," Gimenez stated.

Depending on how many people — military and civilian, to include contractors — attend, there will be a fast walkers group (walking 12–14 minute miles) and a medium speed group (walking 15–17 minute miles). Over the mileage, she said, the paces become extremely challenging.

But with the IBA and plates?

"That is a suggestion," Gimenez smiled. "Some people that attend may wish to simply walk without that equipment for the exercise alone, and that is okay."

"The intent of the Desert Wind Walkers' suggestion to wear the IBA is to provide a chance for Soldiers to practice using their own combat Rapid Fielding Initiative equipment to ensure it fits correctly and that they get used to wearing it," she said.

Gimenez added that for some walkers wearing the IBA allowed them to significantly improve their times on the PT test, whether they run or do an alternate event. Others have stated that just the action of walking — additional exercise during a day or weekend — has been a part of their weight loss goals during their deployment.

Runners are encouraged to come join them as well. "Runners may find that it is more difficult to maintain a 2 to 5 mile walk at a good pace than they thought," Gimenez said.

Walkers should either wear their "camelbacks" or bring a bottle of water, but hydration is important and a participation requirement. Keeping track of your own mileage is up to the individual but Gimenez said that she can provide a simple spreadsheet that calculates mileage to those who want one.

"Even though we are in Kuwait at Arifjan, we never know when we will be asked to go forward into Iraq or Afghanistan. One of the implied tasks to good leaders is preparing themselves mentally, physically and psychologically for future combat operations," Gimenez said. ARM

PHOTO: 335TH THEATER SIGNAL COMMAND

Members of the 335th TSC's "Desert Winds Walkers" take an early morning walk around the camp. Members have the option of wearing or not wearing the IBA or other items while participating in this optional recreational activity.

FEATURES

LSV-8: A SHIP RICH IN HISTORY

By SGT Todd Lamonica
326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Curtis Bay, Md. — The name Robert Smalls is not well known these days. Only those with knowledge of U.S. history and the Civil War are familiar with his accomplishments and dedication to this country. MG Robert Smalls was a civil war hero, U. S. congressman and the first African-American captain of a U. S. vessel.

Originally from Guinea, Smalls' mother worked as a field hand in South Carolina. There Robert was born into a life of slavery. Growing up he worked a variety of jobs, including a waiter, ship rigger and lamplighter. In 1861, he was hired as a deckhand on the *Planter*, a transport steamer owned by the Confederate navy. Smalls would eventually pilot this vessel.

On the morning of May 13, 1862, while the white crew of the *Planter* was ashore, Smalls, along with his family and 12 other slaves, boarded the ship and set sail. The ship was loaded with armaments destined for rebel forts. Smalls sailed the ship northwards through rebel territory.

Unbeknownst to the Confederate navy, Smalls was planning to turn this ship over to the Union navy. He did so and was hailed by the Union press as a hero. In fact, President Abraham Lincoln recognized the gallantry of Smalls and his associates, by providing them with a monetary reward.

Commissioned as a captain in the Union navy in 1862, Smalls became the first black captain of a vessel in the service of the United States. He was hailed as the most significant black participant of the Civil War. After the war, Smalls became a major general in the South Carolina militia and a state legislator. As a legislator he helped rewrite the constitution for the state where he was once enslaved. He also represented the state as a five-term member of the U.S. Congress.

The Army Reserve, with the help from the Robert Smalls Legacy Foundation, has honored this true American hero by naming a ship after him.

"I am so moved by the creation and naming of this ship. It's the culmination of ten years of work for me. Robert's spirit is here; I can feel it," said Kitt Haley Alexander, founder and chair of the Robert Smalls Legacy Foundation.

The *MG Robert Smalls LSV-8* (Logistics Support Vessel) is the largest and newest ship in the Army Reserve fleet and is the first U.S. Army ship to bear the name of an African-American. It is assigned to the 203rd Transportation Detachment, 99th Regional Readiness Command. The *Smalls* is one of only two similar ships in the entire U.S. Army. It is manned by a crew of 31, whose backgrounds bring years of seagoing experience to the unit.

PHOTO: SGT TODD LAMONICA

Logistics Support Vessel (LSV-8), MG Robert Smalls, the largest and newest ship in the Army Reserve inventory, arrives at Curtis Bay, Md.

PHOTO: SGT TODD LAMONICA

Freddy Meyers, the great, great grandson of MG Robert Smalls stands in the boat pilothouse.

"The *Smalls* is 314 feet long and 60 feet wide with 2 Caterpillar engines producing 5,000 horsepower. The vessel has twin propellers and has the ability to land on a beach head or be offloaded at a pier. With fore and aft thrusters the ship can pull itself out of almost any jam," said CWO Richard Conklin, second engineer with the *Smalls*. On the tactical side, the ship is armed with various weapons from the M2 .50 caliber machine gun to the MK 19 grenade launcher, providing plenty of firepower for any landing force.

The ship's main mission is transporting cargo. It can carry almost anything the Army owns, from Humvees to M1 Abrams tanks. "This ship has various uses, such as humanitarian missions in Central America, hurricane relief efforts and combat support roles in the Persian Gulf." said Army CWO Steve Brown, 203rd Trans. Det. commander.

The U.S. Army and the *MG Robert Smalls* honors the legacy of a true American hero, Robert Smalls, a man who risked everything just to be free.

OPERATION ESSAYONS ENGINEERS SUPPORT ARFORGEN

By Amy Phillips
Public Affairs Office
CSTC

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. — More than 600 Army Reserve engineers representing six Regional Readiness Commands from around the country, participated in a real world training event called Operation Essayons at Fort Hunter Liggett during the summer of 2006.

According to CPT Brian Yerby, plans officer of the 926th Engineer Group, Operation Essayons is a USARC-sponsored exercise and part of the Army Reserve Training Strategy in support of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) concept. The exercise is focused on squad, crew and team level training and is intended is to allow units to train in both their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) and tactical skills.

Two rotations of Army Reserve engineers began building the foundation of the 33-acre Tactical Training Base (TTB) Piojo located in the southern part of Fort Hunter Liggett. TTBs are where units train on individual and collective tasks relating to their unit mission. These bases can be used as forward operating bases, tactical assembly areas or bivouac sites for company and battalion-size units.

"It's a win-win situation for the engineers and for the garrison," said COL Scott Wood, Combat Support Training Center (CSTC) commander. "The engineers are able to utilize their MOS, and the post benefits by having a tactical training base to serve thousands of other customers."

Design engineers from the 802nd Facilities Eng. Det., Denver, Colo., produced the layout of TTB Piojo, and will provide quality assurance for the construction project.

"It's great to see our designs come to life," said MAJ Peloquin, project officer for TTB construction. "During Operation Essayons, the engineer units have made significant progress towards completing the construction of TTB Piojo."

TTB Piojo is one of two tactical training bases to be built before June 2007, with a potential third base following later.

"The TTBs are part of a master plan to build up the infrastructure at CSTC sites in order to provide a premier training experience for Reserve Soldiers and other customers," said MAJ David Phillips, director of plans, training, mobilization and security.

Other construction projects at Fort Hunter Liggett include the enhancement of the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site and the convoy live fire range.

The 926th Eng. Bn., Birmingham, Ala., constructed an entry control point and poured the 11 concrete slabs that will support

PHOTO: SGT DENNIS JACKSON

SGT Kevin Willis, 277th Eng. Co., operates the flow of water from his water tanker.

the mobile kitchens, dining and laundry tents. They also contributed to the efforts begun by the 244th Eng. Bn. of hauling material for the more than five acres of gravel area for tents and roads. In addition, the battalion also installed a fence to prevent erosion and the contamination of a bordering stream during construction operations.

The 279th Eng. Det., Missoula, Mont., installed electrical wiring in MILVANS (storage containers), poured concrete pads and made many MOUT site improvements.

The 244th Eng. Bn., Fort Collins, Colo., built all the internal roads for the TTB, poured two concrete helipads, and placed the gravel base for the living and maintenance areas. They also played the role of opposing forces during the tactical training portion of Essayons.

"We did a lot of concrete work at Fort Hunter Liggett. It is great training because that is what's done in theatre," said PVT Michael Smith, 244th Eng. Bn.

The 699th Eng. Co., Ceiba, Puerto Rico, constructed the ammunition holding area using concrete and masonry blocks.

The 277th Eng. Co., San Antonio, Texas, paved the asphalt safety perimeters around the helipads and the roads and parking lot at the range control area.

TTB Piojo will have more than 200,000 square feet for living tents, more than 48,000 square feet for dining areas, more than 7,000 square feet for MWR areas, eight tactical operation centers (TOCs), eight shower points, 10 latrine areas, a water pumping station and water storage area, maintenance area, parking lot and two helipads.

"I couldn't have asked for a better training experience," said LTC Mark Snoozy, 379th Eng. Bn. acting commander. "It was one of the best combat effects training I've ever had. The engineer projects were realistic and diverse, and the meals were great."

PHOTO: SGT DENNIS JACKSON

Soldiers from Headquarters Company, 926th Eng. Bn., build the foundation for a military field kitchen at Forward Operating Base Piojo during Operation Essayons.

AR SOLDIER'S MOM GETS LAPTOPS FOR WOUNDED

By Lisa Burgess
Stars and Stripes
Mideast edition

Arlington, Va. — Any deployed service member can talk about the lifeline the Internet represents when it comes to staying connected to loved ones back home.

But as Laura Brown of Cody, Wyo., knows, that same lifeline is just as important when you are lying helpless in a hospital bed, with time hanging heavy and nothing but pain and bad memories to kill it.

After striking up an e-mail friendship last October with the mother of a young Iraq veteran at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., who was in that very fix, Brown, 50, decided to try and help him, she told Stars and Stripes.

"He was a multiple amputee and had been in rehab for a long, long time," Brown said. "His mother said the one thing he wished he had was a laptop computer."

Brown herself has limited mobility from repeated knee surgeries and suffers from traumatic brain injury from a bad fall down some stairs in 2005.

"In the condition I'm in, I understand the isolation of not being able to be with my buds," Brown said. "I'm sure it must be 10 times worse for [wounded servicemembers], with their buds at war."

But at Walter Reed, as Brown learned, there was only one public computer in the entire rehab center.

Brown's own son, Army Reserve SPC Johnny Barker, 25, a light equipment operator, had returned home safely from his Iraq deployment with the XVIII Airborne Corps in March 2004. But she couldn't get the Walter Reed amputee out of her mind, she said.

"I thought, if each of my buddies would donate about $3 each, we could buy this guy a laptop," Brown said.

So Brown hit her e-mail address book and the Internet, and began soliciting friends and even strangers for donations.

As it turned out, the amputee at Walter Reed was given a laptop by another charity organization before Brown raised enough to purchase him a laptop, she said. But the heartfelt responses, particularly from strangers, got the Wyoming mom thinking.

"I knew if there was one out there who needed a laptop, there were more."

So she set a goal: to raise enough funds to buy four new laptops, complete with Web cameras, for Soldiers recovering from their war injuries in one of the military's largest rehabilitation hospitals.

Brown set up Laptops for the Wounded as a tax-deductible, charitable, nonprofit organization, and developed a Web site to promote her effort, **www.laptopsforthewounded.com.**

In the year that she has been working on the project, Brown has raised $8,000 — enough to buy and send four laptops with webcams to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington; three laptops with cameras to Balboa Naval Medical Center in San Diego; and one to the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, she said.

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SOLDIER BUILDS MEMORIAL TO 9-11 VICTIMS

By Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Office
99th Regional Readiness Command

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — Like all Americans, SGT John Hamilton was stunned and shocked by the attacks on the World Trade Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Like most of us, he grieved for the senseless loss of so many lives, including those aboard Flight 93. Investigators believe Flight 93 crashed when passengers fought back the hijackers who planned to attack another target in Washington, DC. Rather than passively accepting a fate that would have undoubtedly claimed even more lives, those passengers sacrificed their own lives instead.

Like most people, Hamilton mourned for the victims of that day, but later he wanted to do more. After considering how he could honor the lives of those lost in the attacks, he began the design and construction of a model memorial he dreamed might one day be built. He said he got the basic idea to replicate the towers from his brother, who had constructed two large trellises in front of his Cleveland home. The outdoor trellises then served as vertical guides for the climbing ivies and plants he strategically planted around the bases. At night these structures were illuminated.

Hamilton had just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq when he saw his brother's creations and was inspired. "I told him this could be a memorial," Hamilton said. "Because he did that, I thought I might try something too."

Hamilton, a native of Cleveland, currently serves with Company C, 458th Engineer Battalion, located in New Kensington. The 458th is one of two large units housed at the Reserve center. Both units have pulled tours in Iraq, and the 307th Military Police Company lost two Soldiers to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

While in Iraq, Hamilton's unit was located at what was then known as Baghdad International Airport (BIAP).

"Our team repaired roads and constructed bunkers for Iraqi guards,' said Hamilton. "But we were also called the 'Buffalo Team' because we searched for IEDs." The unit had received a specially-equipped Humvee with a remotely controlled "arm" that had a hook to uncover and dislodge hidden ordnance.

"We continuously replaced that hook," Hamilton said, a grin quickly appearing then disappearing just as quickly. "One night I [accidentally] stopped right next to it [IED]."

The IED exploded and the blast alerted hidden enemy along the world's most dangerous road, Route Irish, the only road from BIAP to the Green Zone. The insurgents then began throwing grenades at the Buffalo Team.

"A few Soldiers caught shrapnel and had cuts and bruises," Hamilton said. But the mission was completed without further incident. The vehicle received yet another "claw," and the Buffalo Team continued searching for IEDs to keep Route Irish open.

Hamilton's service in Iraq fueled his drive to complete his scaled memorial model.

"I started over about two or three times," he said, explaining how he first began using materials at-hand, like paper and cardboard. But as his vision developed he was able to source much of the material from scale model train villages. He worked nights, on his own time, and bought what material he required with his own funds.

After he completed the first version, he photographed it, prepared a data sheet and formatted the elements into a package. He drove to New York City where he walked through the streets talking to anyone who had interest in what he'd done and outlining what he intended to do next.

"I walked around the Bronx and Manhattan for about three days," Hamilton said. "A lot of people did not agree with what was going on there [projected plans for rebuilding at the Ground Zero site]. It is a very touchy subject. This [his model] isn't a thing to be sold or used to make money. That would be disrespectful."

"Each person did some little part that day that changed our history and it's very important to me to honor that," said Hamilton. "I didn't do this to make money."

Since the model was displayed at the Army Reserve center in New Kensington, the Soldiers of both units and several visitors have had the opportunity to see it. Hamilton enjoys sharing his model and his ideas with other veterans, and, after viewing it, it is easy to see the effort he has made.

"I feel like it's a responsibility," he said. "It's like a duty. I've talked to a lot of other veterans about their experiences. I see what I've done here as coming from the military, and from the United States as a whole. I'm just the middleman to get it where it's going."

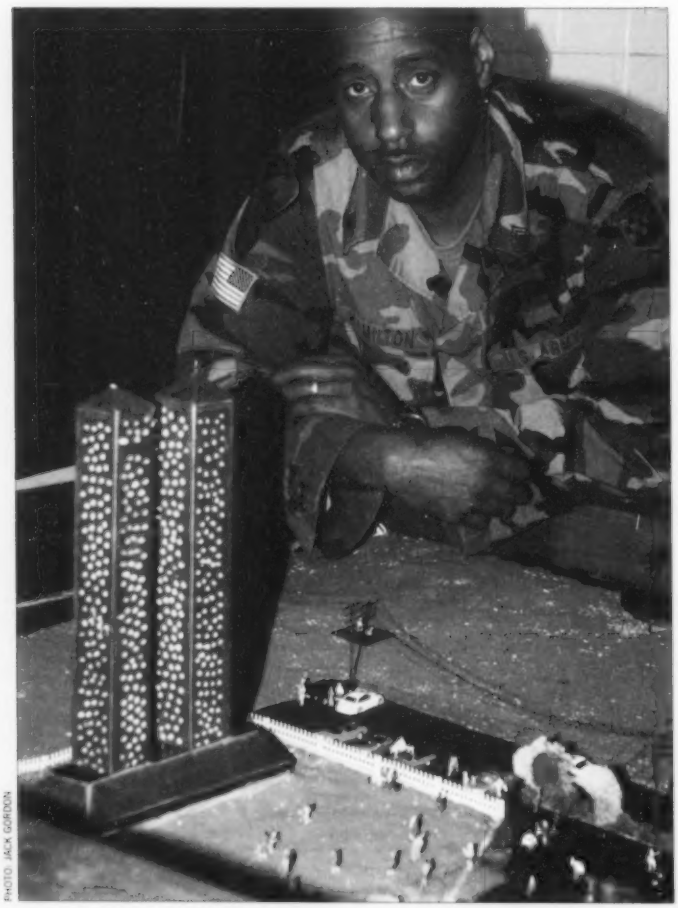

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

SGT John Hamilton was inspired by his brother to develop a scale model for a 9/11 memorial.

ARMY RESERVE FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS: CITIZEN-SOLDIERS AND STATESMEN

By COL John Blumenson
Charles Reimer
Strategic Leadership Division
Headquarters, Department of the Army

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Enhanced Reserve Component Foreign Area Officer (RC FAO) program is a little known program that provides qualified, reserve field-grade officers for service in strategic positions at the highest levels of the Army and the Department of Defense.

The Strategic Leadership Division, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Headquarters, Department of the Army, is the FAO proponent, and has aggressively undertaken the mission of revitalizing the program since August, 2005.

More than 140 duty positions are available world-wide for officers selected to serve as RC FAOs. The majority of these are with the Defense Attaché System as Assistant Army Attachés, the Defense Intelligence Agency; the Army Staff (G-2 and G-3) and the Combatant Commands.

RC FAOs receive the same functional area designator (FA 48) as their active component counterparts, supporting nine geographic regions. Those regions are: Latin America, Europe, South Asia, Eurasia, China, Middle East/North Africa, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

RC FAO assignments offer reserve officers unique experiences often not available in the Troop Program Unit. RC FAOs often find themselves in the field around the world, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

LTC John A. Sutherland, an RC FAO assigned to the Pacific Command (PACOM), is one of a few U.S. military officers to visit Vietnam on an official visit since 1975.

"As an Army Reserve FAO I could not ask for a better position. I have traveled with then Pacific Command (PACOM) Commander Admiral Dennis Blair in 2002, worked on the first U.S. ship visit to Vietnam since 1975 and even met GEN Vo Nguyen Giap," said Sutherland. "Giap is a key historical figure and a hero to many Vietnamese after defeating of the French in 1954 and planning the Tet Offensive of 1968."

"As a member of the PACOM Joint Staff, I have direct input and can affect national policy and strategy," he said.

Officers interested in becoming RC FAOs must meet stringent requirements. They must be a field grade officer; possess an advanced degree in an appropriate discipline; have completed at least 50 percent of Intermediate Level Education (ILE) or Command and General Staff College; receive a minimum Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) score of 2 reading/2 listening in a target region language within 12 months of applying for the program; and be eligible for a top secret/SCI security clearance.

Additionally, interested officers must demonstrate a high level of expertise in the region to which they are applying. This experience can be gained through military and/or civilian experience.

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY

LTC John A. Sutherland meets with GEN Vo Nguyen Giap during a visit to Hanoi in 2002.

All RC FAO duty positions are Drilling Individual Mobilization Augmentee (DIMA). Once an officer is awarded the FA 48, he or she is eligible to compete for a vacant position. Most RC FAO duty positions, such as an Assistant Army Attaché, are nominative. In addition to DIMA positions, RC FAOs may be mobilized in support of world-wide operations.

For additional information on the Army's FAO program visit **www.fao.army.mil**

AMERICAN LEGION, ARMY RESERVE PARTNER TO SUPPORT SOLDIERS

By SFC Craig Pickett
350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

INDIANAPOLIS — The Army Reserve has a new partner in the Global War on Terrorism, the American Legion. Chief, Army Reserve, LTG Jack C. Stultz and the National Commander of the American Legion, Paul A. Morin sealed the deal during a signing ceremony at American Legion's National Headquarters.

The signing reaffirms both organizations' commitment to the American Soldier, their families and veterans alike. The memorandum of understanding allows for open communication between the two groups and encourages American Legion posts to get involved with their local reserve centers. Essentially it is an extension of reserve unit's family support groups.

"With over 14,000 American Legion posts located across America, we certainly have the infrastructure in place to assist the Army Reserve's goal of ongoing interaction with communities and organizations while providing support to the Army Reserve Soldiers being called to active duty and their families," said Morin.

"I applaud the American Legion for what they are doing," said Stultz. "The reserve component is a community based organization and we depend upon the community for support. That is why the support of the American Legion is critical to our success to sustain our armed forces."

When Army Reserve Soldiers are called to active duty, they may not have access to active duty programs such as Army Emergency Relief or Army Community Services. They have to rely on their family support group, which may or may not be local or even organized to a level where it can provide adequate support. This is where the American Legion can step in and help.

"We have a family support network already in place," said Morin. "We have an 800 number people can call and it will connect them with a local post where they can receive help."

Once connected with a local post, a spouse or Soldier can rely on Legionnaires to assist in any number of ways. It could be as simple as helping with yard work while a Soldier is deployed or involve more serious issues such as health or finances. For the latter, Legionnaires can put family members in touch with the right people to handle problems.

There are many other support services the Legion can provide during all phases of a Soldier's call to active duty. Many are concrete, like the temporary financial assistance they offer; but others are intangible, like the reassurance that help is only a phone all away.

Stultz calls this an overlapping network of support for Soldiers and sees it as a benefit for all Soldiers and their families. He said there is no more Army Reserve. It is all the Army. It only depends what status you are in; active or reserve.

With the move towards the Reserve being an operational force, the Army is looking at ways of taking care of Soldiers and their families in non-traditional ways.

Stultz said that you can entice new Soldiers with cash bonuses, but to reenlist a Soldier you have to convince the family. "When a family feels good about the support they are receiving, they will feel comfortable about their Soldier staying in," he said.

With deployments a reality for hundreds of thousands of reserve Soldiers, having any extra support or help can be beneficial; especially when the ones helping are veterans themselves and have faced the same issues.

"I am proud of the American Legion family in their support of the Guard and Reserve," said Morin. "We are there when they leave, while the families are at home and when they come home. Our organization also has a proud success rate in lobbying the President and Congress for benefits for the Guard and Reserve."

"This is truly veterans helping veterans," said Morin.

PHOTO: SFC CRAIG PICKETT

National Commander of the American Legion, Paul A. Morin hands out membership slips to CPT Byron Jones and LTC Erwin Ida, both with 8th Army (CONUS), Indianapolis, during the signing ceremony. Morin offered to pay their first year membership dues.

ALL AMERICAN BOWL BRINGS PLAYERS, HEROS TOGETHER

By MAJ Hillary Luton
Army Reserve Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — When 80 young men come together from all over the United States to play a game of football, it is a match worth watching. But when those players are met by 84 of America's Heroes, then you have an event that will not soon be forgotten.

During the week of Jan. 2–7, 2007, the players from America's high schools met for a match of East against West in the Army's All-American Bowl. The game, staged at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio, Texas, is the premier high school football game.

Each of the Soldiers recognized throughout the week had earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star or Purple Heart. One Soldier had earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. The Soldiers came from the Active Army, the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Throughout the week, the players and the heroes were teamed up and given opportunities to get to know and learn about each other's lives, education and future. The matching began Jan. 3 as the players and heroes enjoyed watching the Sugar Bowl game and continued at a barbeque dinner and an awards dinner before the week ended.

The 24 Soldiers from the Army Reserve represented units from several of the commands. When asked how their experience was going, many Soldiers jumped at the opportunity to comment on the maturity and respectfulness of the players they were matched up with. "These kids seem like they are well-mannered; they have respect, they have discipline," stated MSG Larry Gray, 724th Military Police Battalion, 81st Regional Readiness Command (RRC).

It was easy for the Soldiers to compare their missions to the mission of football and to see similarities between the players, the game and the military. SSG Duenean Pressley, 1st Battalion, 417th Regiment, 98th Division, compared the player she was matched up with to her own son. "He reminds me a lot of my son who is back home," Pressley said. "They are only two years apart and both play football." Where 1LT Annette Sabado from the 630th Transportation Company, 99th RRC, noticed the camaraderie among the players and how that had developed in a short amount of time. "It just reminded me of the unit that I deployed with. It was 85 percent cross-leveled and you are just thrown together," She stated. "And it was a team effort. You're strong. You go out there and fight and win."

SFC Richard Llewellyn, 1st Battalion, 389th Regiment, 98th Division, 2nd Brigade, went on to comment about how the community of San Antonio had welcomed the heroes with open arms. "They are here to welcome us," Llewellyn stated. "It doesn't matter where we came from in the U.S."

The heroes that attended the All-American Bowl are only a small portion of the many heroes that make up the Army Reserve today. SFC Mark Martinez, 2nd Battalion, 363rd Regiment, 91st Division, mentioned that being amongst all of the other Soldiers that week was truly an honor for him. While MSG Christopher Hoffman, 457th Transportation Battalion, 88th RRC, stated that the true heroes are those Soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield.

The opportunity to be recognized for their service, the chance to meet college football's future stars and to be a part of this great event helped the Soldier heroes to have time to reflect on their own careers and on what they can take back to their units. For SFC Mario Rocha, 887th Quartermaster Company, 90th RRC, teamwork stood out the most. More importantly, he noted that teamwork starts at an early age. Pressley also mentioned teamwork and how it doesn't come from rank or who a person thinks he or she is; it comes from recognizing the team as a whole and building upon that. SSG Marlon Williams, 3rd Battalion, 321st Regiment, 108th Division, 7th Brigade, went even further to recognize that when we are Soldiers in the Army Reserve, "…there is no white, no black, no color, just green in the military." He went on to state, "the players don't see each other as color, they just interact. They are just players."

The final event was a special concert by the band Lonestar to honor the heroes. The band dedicated the concert to all military heroes and spent time meeting the Soldiers before and after the concert. The All-American Bowl not only brought players and Soldiers together to be honored, but it also developed friendships, respect, teamwork and memories that can be cherished for a lifetime. ARM

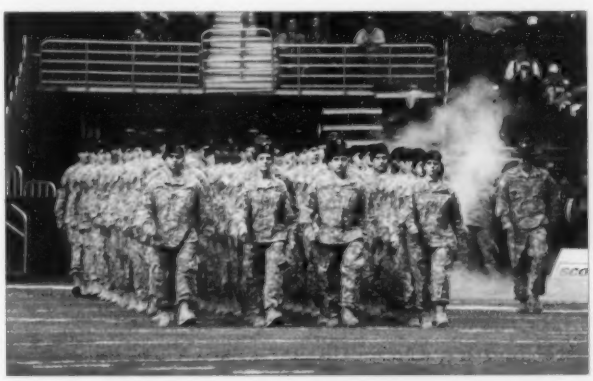

PHOTO: MAJ HILLARY LUTON

Eighty-four Soldier Heroes enter the Alamo Dome arena in San Antonio, Texas on All-American Bowl Game Day. Football players from America's high schools met for a game of East against West.

People

SPC JOHN EMMETT NAMED SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

By Paul Adams
Army Reserve Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — SPC John Emmett, an Army Reserve Soldier who was mobilized in January 2006, was named the Army's Soldier of the year in the 2006 Department of the Army NCO/Soldier of the Year (NCO/SOY) Competition. The announcement, made by the Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston, followed the five-day rigorous Best Warrior Competition held Oct. 2–6, 2006 at Fort Lee, Va.

Emmett, who was promoted to sergeant in mid October 2006, is assigned to the 21st Theater Support Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany, as a signal support system specialist and represented U.S. Army Europe. He came from the 21st Theater Support Command, Indianapolis, Ind., which is the reserve counterpart of the 21st TSC in Germany.

"It was truly an honor and privilege to be named the Army's Best Warrior, but I am also humbled in light of the many other Soldiers who are deployed in harm's way right now. I certainly owe them thanks and gratitude for their sacrifice," Emmett said.

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY

SPC John Emmett calls in a medical evacuation request for a helicopter to pick up a victim

The NCO/SOY competition is a test of skills and not a training event, and determines the most technically and tactically professional Soldier. It consisted of a board appearance, the Army Physical Fitness Test, qualification range and other competitions.

Emmett competed against nine other Soldiers chosen from U.S. Army Commands worldwide.

This year, a few twists were added to the competition. For example, the wooded land navigation course was out. Instead Soldiers had to take on an Urban Warfighter Orientation Course. This consisted of location points in the built-up areas of the installation. To navigate their way through it, each Soldier was provided a compass along with a global positioning satellite device to use for the last point on the course.

"The competition was extremely dynamic and designed to test both our knowledge and skills, Emmett said. "It truly pushed us to our limits both physically and mentally. From a written essay and exam to a combatives tournament, it was truly the all around test of a Soldier's knowledge and skills."

Two other changes to the 2006 NCO/SOY Competition included the implementation of new rules concerning the Handling and Supervising of Enemy Prisoners of War and use of the individual First Aid Kit, recently implemented Army wide. Both were part of the Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills portion of the competition.

ARMY RESERVE COUPLE RECEIVE PURPLE HEARTS

By MAJ Hillary A. Luton
Army Reserve Public Affairs

HASTINGS, Neb., — It is common for a husband and wife to mobilize and it is quite possible for them to mobilize at the same time. However, a husband and wife mobilized at the same time to both receive purple hearts is rather uncommon.

PHOTO: MAJ HILLARY LUTON

Sergeants Clayton "Eric" and Heidi Erickson were wounded within 12 days of each other while deployed to Iraq.

For husband and wife, SGT Clayton "Eric" Erickson, and SGT Heidi Erickson, the wounds that were responsible for their purple hearts occurred within just 12 days of each other.

Both Soldiers, members of the 295th Ordnance Company, Hastings, Neb., were mobilized in 2003 to serve in Iraq. Both received their wounds due to improvised explosive devices while traveling in supply convoys.

Eric was wounded Aug. 4, 2004, near Mosul, when a vehicle carrying explosives drove into his convoy. The explosion detonated about 20 yards from Eric's truck.

It was not until the convoy reached safety that Eric noticed pain in his right ear. A few days later a doctor looked at the ear and noticed that he had suffered a blast concussion.

Less than 12 days later, Heidi was driving in a convoy passing a tanker truck when that tanker suddenly exploded. A piece of metal hurtled through the air and penetrated the windshield of the vehicle Heidi was driving. Her focus after the explosion was on getting her vehicle, co-driver and gunner past the fire, and out of danger. She had no choice but to drive quickly through the fire. Her gunner sustained minor burns but all three survived the incident. It wasn't until they reached safety that she realized she had received cuts to the face from the flying metal debris.

In an effort to save the other from undue worry, each felt the best thing to do was hold the news until an appropriate time. So it was some time later before the Ericksons shared the stories of their incidents with each other.

The Ericksons have since completed their tours and have returned to their home in Central City, Neb., where they live with their three children. They are very grateful for the very strong support group their family members have provided.

ARMY TRANSPORTATION CORPS RECOGNIZES 99TH RRC ROAD WARRIOR

By Christopher D. Coleman
Public Affairs Office
99th Regional Readiness Command

CORAOPOLIS, Pa. — When deployed to Iraq, 1LT Annette Sabado frequently left Logistical Support Area Anaconda's safer confines, traveling "outside the wire" with Soldiers of the 630th Transportation Company to deliver food, fuel and ammo to the warfighters waging daily battles against insurgents.

Her willingness to voluntarily brave potential improvised explosive device attacks and the myriad of uncertainties that could occur while traveling the Iraqi roads during her 367 days of "boots-on-the-ground" earned her respect from fellow Soldiers. Sabado and the selfless service she displayed were recognized in May 2006 when she was inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Christopher by the Transportation Corps Regimental Association. Sabado was also selected in July 2006 as the Transportation Corps Reserve Component Officer of the Year for 2005.

Sabado, executive officer, 630th Trans. Co., Washington, Pa., said the awards were nice, but accolades were never her motivation.

"To me, the awards epitomize that I've been there, done that, got the T-Shirt," she said. "I just did my job. Helping a Soldier, getting a mission accomplished — that's what is important."

LTC Mark Peterson (ret.), Engineer section, 99th RRC, describes Sabado as a "results-oriented officer," and nominated her for the Transportation Corps Reserve Component Officer of the Year award.

"She has consistently impressed me with her commitment to excellence, selfless service to the unit and sound moral judgment," he said.

During her mobilization, Sabado directed more than 40 convoys as convoy commander and served on 75 missions as a serial commander. Even though 90 percent of the unit's missions took place in hostile conditions, the 630th's platoons still were able to log more than 500,000 accident-free miles, delivering more than 1 million tons of supplies to destinations in Iraq, Kuwait and Jordan.

Sabado said completing a year's worth of missions without a single life lost was their most important accomplishment.

"I'm proud of the fact that everyone came back safe. There were no memorial services," Sabado said.

Bojarski credited Sabado's proactive diligence to prevent combat losses.

"Lieutenant Sabado personally took it upon herself to develop a convoy operation briefing format, enabling commanders to be more efficient, confident and organized while giving the convoy safety brief for each movement," he said.

Although Sabado's award recognized her service as an officer, the bulk of her Army Reserve career had been as an enlisted Soldier.

After 13 years of enlisted service, Sabado was commissioned into the Transportation Corps in 2002 via the 99th Regional Readiness Command Direct Commission Program. Sabado, who served one year as a Primary Leadership Development Course instructor during her enlisted career, believes her experience as an NCO assisted her philosophical development as a commissioned officer. If her Soldiers were going to be outside the wire on Christmas or New Year's Day, Sabado felt that she should be right out there with them.

The Honorable Order of Saint Christopher recognizes individuals demonstrating the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displaying an outstanding degree of professional competence and serving the Transportation Corps with selflessness, according to the Transportation Corps Regimental Association.

Saint Christopher, the patron saint of transportation, was — according to religious texts — a 3rd-century giant who assisted travelers by carrying them on his shoulder across a dangerous river.

For Sabado, who shouldered the three-day task of leading a 20-mile long convoy 250 miles across Iraq to the Iraqi-Jordanian border to obtain supplies for the Iraqi National Guard, the award holds special meaning.

"This award means your peers view you as an outstanding transportation Soldier, and that means a lot," she said. ARM

PHOTO COURTESY 630TH TRANS. CO.

1LT Annette Sabado supervises Soldiers of the 630th Transportation Company, Washington, Pa., during convoy preparations.

Around the Globe

N.Y. AR SOLDIERS REBUILD MONGOLIAN FACILITIES

By 2LT Amy Bombassaro
Alaska National Guard

ULANBAATAR, Mongolia — As Soldiers from seven Pacific nations trained in peacekeeping operations at Five Hills Training Center in Mongolia during the Khaan Quest 2006 exercise, one group of service men and women were able to give back to the host nation.

Members of the 854th and 306th Engineer Battalions, Army Reserve, from Bullview, N.Y. and Long Island, N.Y., respectively, carried their hammers and shovels halfway around the world to conduct a humanitarian civil affairs project in Ulaanbaatar. The Soldiers were constructing the new Simba Kindergarten School, rehabilitating the intensive care room of the National Toxicology Center and replacing doors in the Children's Wing of the Communicable Disease Hospital.

On Aug. 16, 2006, with construction ahead of schedule, the unit decided to break from their work for a few hours to present the Simba students and other neighborhood children with toys, school supplies and other donations. The school is not only a teaching facility, but a home for the orphans who attend classes there.

"I've been looking forward to seeing the kids for awhile, that's why we're here," said SPC Jeff Fina, as he and his fellow Soldiers unpacked toys before the children arrived. "The impact of doing this mission will become clear today."

The children filed onto the school property with wide eyes and smiles as they discovered that the Soldiers were holding stuffed animals, games and other toys in their arms. The event was a surprise for the children, who had not seen the school grounds since construction had commenced a week earlier.

Ganzorig Purev, 10, said through a translator that he was shocked to see the Soldiers at the school.

"It's exciting," Purev said. "I want to say thank you to the Soldiers."

SPC Robert Abrams, an Army electrician from Newburg, N.Y., said the afternoon of bonding with the children affected him just as much as them.

"I haven't seen my own boys in two years. I really needed this," Abrams said. "This is the reason I came — to see these faces."

The engineer units have completed similar projects in other countries, including Iraq, Thailand, Guatemala, Panama, Germany and the Republic of the Philippines. SFC David Creighton, the engineer NCO in-charge, said he and other leaders approached their Soldiers with the idea of these construction projects after seeing the living conditions in the community during their initial planning visit to Mongolia. The Soldiers were anxious to take advantage of the opportunity to contribute beyond their construction projects and ended up collecting more than 600 pounds of goods in the United States to donate to the Mongolian children.

PFC Rhiannon Montanje, a carpentry mason from Middletown, N.Y., gathered donations from her church and family. She even took her own siblings with her to help select toys to purchase with the monetary donations. Montanje said she is astonished by the living conditions at the school and surrounding neighborhood of dilapidated homes without running water.

"I want to cry when I see how the kids are living like this," Montanje said. "Being here makes me appreciate what I have."

When the Soldiers weren't framing and sheeting at the school, they were replacing doors at the Children's Wing of the Communicable Disease Hospital and rehabilitating the intensive care room of the National Toxicology Emergency Center. They are replacing windows, doors, sinks and plumbing and refurnishing floors and the ceiling at the center.

The Soldiers worked alongside Mongolian civilians to integrate American construction techniques with Mongolian lumber and supplies. At the same time, the Mongolians taught U.S. Soldiers some about their electrical, plumbing and tile trades.

SFC Samuel Dartt, construction operations NCO for the project, said they faced the unique challenges that come with working in an area outside the United States.

PHOTO: 2LT AMY BOMBASSARO

SPC Michael Moore, a carpentry mason with the 854th Engineer Battalion, Bullville, N.Y., removes old windows in the National Toxicology Emergency Center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The unit is participating in a humanitarian civil affairs project during Khaan Quest 2006, a multinational peacekeeping exercise at Five Hills Training Center.

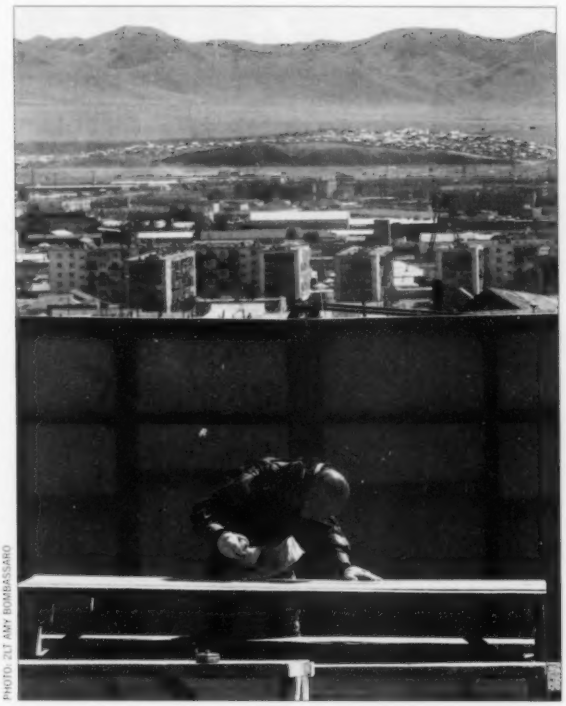

PHOTO: 2LT AMY BOMBASSARO

SPC Teresa Young, a carpentry mason with the 854th Engineer Battalion, treats lumber for the new Simba Kindergarten School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Besides constructing the new school, Soldiers are rehabilitating the intensive care room of the National Toxicology Center and replacing doors in the Children's Wing of the Communicable Disease Hospital.

"The biggest challenge we have is acquiring materials," Dartt said. "They don't have a Home Depot or Lowes here. We have to go to about four or five different venders and everything is cash and carry."

The rough cut wood they found had to be treated to become usable lumber. In addition, the Soldiers had to utilize transformers in order to use any of their power tools because the Mongolian power system uses a different voltage standard.

Dartt said the Soldiers overcame the obstacles, utilizing lessons learned from the unit's previous projects overseas, along with the Mongolians' consultation.

Narankhuu Galkhuu, director of the National Toxicology Emergency Center, said the Soldiers did a wonderful job.

"I appreciate the aid of the American Soldiers. The center was established in 1930 and hasn't been reconstructed since it was built," Galkhuu said through a translator. "This increases our friendship and cooperation between the Mongolian and American people."

As Khaan Quest 2006 wound down, and the construction projects were completed, the Soldiers had one more mission on their minds. They brought the remainder of the donations to patients at the Children's Wing of the Communicable Disease Hospital and to children at a local orphanage before they redeployed home to New York.

ARMY RESERVE CSM VISITS SOLDIERS IN EUROPE

Story by SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

SCHWETZINGEN, Germany — During a recent trip to Europe, the new Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve, CSM Leon Caffie, sat down and talked with Army Reserve Soldiers about transformation, his expectations of them and what they can expect from him.

Caffie, who was sworn in as the 10th command sergeant major of the Army Reserve on Aug.18, 2006, talked to Soldiers at the 7th Army Reserve Command in Schwetzingen, Germany, during a trip in conjunction with the new Chief, Army Reserve, LTG Jack C. Stultz.

"What I expect from Soldiers is what I expect from myself: to be a leader," said Caffie. "I also expect to assist the Chief of the Army Reserve with the transformation of the Army Reserve. One of my responsibilities is to get the word out, down to the lowest ranking Soldier, that there is no fear. The Army Reserve will be here, and as we move forward with the Army Reserve's transformation, the Army Reserve will give our Soldiers two things: stability and predictability."

Caffie said his "stability and predictability" comment is based on the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) plan in which Soldiers may be deployed once approximately every five years to any given theater for any given conflict.

"ARFORGEN adds stability and predictability for Soldiers," said Caffie. "It also tells the Soldier's employer that in four years I may have to deploy again, but, if I do, I will be back in a year."
— CSM Leon Caffie

"ARFORGEN adds stability and predictability for Soldiers," said Caffie. "It also tells the Soldier's employer that in four years I may have to deploy again, but, if I do, I will be back in a year. So everybody, including the Soldier's family and the employer, are aware of the expectations. This is the way to go."

While speaking of his goals for his term, Caffie said compensating Soldiers for traveling long distances to battle assemblies is one of his major priorities.

Because transformation will cause some Army Reserve Soldiers to travel

PHOTO: SFC DERRICK MITHERSPOON

CSM Leon Caffie, command sergeant major of the Army Reserve, talks to SSG Julia Kennedy as SSG Richard Dickerson (left) and SPC Cody Camacho listen. The Soldiers were performing training at the 7th Army Reserve Command.

greater distances to reach their units, Caffie, along with Stultz, is working to have Soldiers compensated for certain incurred expenses.

"A lot of these young Soldiers travel in excess of 800 miles to come to a typical battle assembly," said Caffie. "Some also have to take a half-day off from their civilian employer on Friday so they can drive or fly to their unit's location. At this time we don't compensate them for their mileage, nor do we compensate them for lodging or meals that they pay for on Friday night. Until the Chief of the Army Reserve brought this up, it wasn't being addressed."

"These Soldiers are entitled to professional leadership and the best equipment the Army can provide for them."
— CSM Leon Caffie

Caffie said the Department of the Army is also looking into compensating those Army Reserve Soldiers who need to travel long distances to battle assemblies for their out-of-pocket expenses.

"If we can get this initiative funded, I think it will change perspectives," said Caffie.

As transformation continues to move forward, Caffie said another of his priorities is ensuring Soldiers have strong leadership and the proper equipment needed to successfully accomplish their missions.

"There have been over 160,000 Army Reserve Soldiers mobilized in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Of those mobilized, 126 Army Reserve Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice, and approximately 900 Army Reserve Soldiers have been injured," said Caffie. "So, it's not exactly changing what I expect of our Soldiers, but rather ensuring that our Soldiers receive what they are entitled to. These Soldiers are entitled to professional leadership and the best equipment the Army can provide for them. My job is to ensure they have the leadership and the equipment they need to successfully do their jobs."

Caffie also said he will focus on Army Reserve families and place their needs equally as high as his Soldiers needs.

"The Army Reserve has hired 162 contractors to work family support issues," said Caffie. "I'm very aware that when we mobilize units we bring in Soldiers from throughout the country. It's imperative that we take care of our families on the home front while their husband or wife is deployed. It's most important; it's about family."

During his conversation with the Soldiers, Caffie said he thought all Army Reserve Soldiers have done a remarkable job. He singled out the 7th Army Reserve Command and added that he is extremely proud of its work.

"I'm going to do everything within my power to support the endeavors of 7th ARCOM."
— CSM Leon Caffie

"If you look at the 7th ARCOM and the number of Soldiers they have had deployed, and also take into account the number of miles an ARCOM Reserve Soldier has to travel, it's remarkable," said Caffie. "Some of them literally travel from one country to another just to be a patriot and serve in the United States Army Reserve. It's amazing, and I'm so appreciative that we have Americans living abroad who want to serve in America's military and are making tremendous sacrifices to serve. That makes this old man feel good, and I'm going to do everything within my power to support the endeavors of 7th ARCOM."

Caffie added that he is very optimistic about the future of the Army Reserve and he is looking forward to interacting with Army Reserve Soldiers as much as he can.

"I like what we are now," said Caffie. "My greatest goal and accomplishment would be to improve the overall effectiveness of the Army Reserve so that no Soldier is left behind and that those who want to serve are given the opportunity."

AMERICAN RED CROSS PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY MEMBERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Contributed by the American Red Cross

Since 2000, the American Red Cross has been teaching members of Reserve and National Guard units, military recruiters and members of ROTC units and their families how to access services through its Armed Forces Emergency Services Get to Know Us Before You Need Us Program.

Emergency Communication Services

During emergencies, the Red Cross keeps military personnel in touch with their families, providing important news about the birth of a child, serious illness of a family member or death of a loved one. Messages are delivered anywhere in the world including ships at sea, isolated military units and embassies. Red Cross messages are verified as necessary.

Other Social Services

The Red Cross provides access to financial assistance, counseling, family support and assistance with representation at the Board of Veterans Appeals. When an emergency arises that requires the presence of the service member or his or her family, the Red Cross may provide access to an interest-free loan for travel expenses and other emergency situations through a partnership with military aid societies.

How to Access Red Cross Assistance

Active-duty service members stationed in the U.S. and their immediate family may call the Red Cross for help 24/7, 365 days a year. The toll-free telephone number is available through base or installation operators and from on-base Red Cross offices.

Family members who do not reside in the service members' household, members of the National Guard and Reserves, recruiters, retirees and civilians may access services through their local Red Cross chapter, which is listed in telephone books and at **www.redcross.org/where/where.html.** ARM

American Red Cross

Armed Forces Emergency Services

To contact a Service Member regarding an emergency, call the Red Cross office nearest your location. Be ready to give the following information about the Service Member:

Name: _____ **Branch of Service:** _____

Social Security #: _____ **Rank:** _____

Complete Military Address: _____

_____

Date of Birth: _____

Service Member's telephone/cell #s: _____

Local Red Cross # : _____

GRPHIC COURTESY AMERICAN RED CROSS

To contact a service member in an emergency, call the Red Cross office nearest you and provide the information contained in this chart. For convenience, the completed chart may be taped to the refrigerator.

INTERVIEW

MRS. STULTZ SPEAKS OUT: "TAKE CARE OF SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES"

(Editor's note: Evelyn Jutte, Army Reserve Strategic Communications, sat down with Laura Stultz, wife of LTG Jack C. Stultz, to talk about Mrs. Stultz's goals and plans during the next three years.)

Army Reserve Magazine (ARM): What do you want to accomplish while LTG Stultz serves as Chief, Army Reserve?

Mrs. Laura Stultz (Mrs. Stultz): If I had to list the things I want to focus on, medical care for families would be at the top.

I want to know why Soldiers are sometimes dropped out of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). I've heard "It happens to everybody" and "It happens all the time," but these answers aren't good enough. It has to be something that can be corrected.

> "I want to know why Soldiers are sometimes dropped out of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)."
> — Laura Stultz

I'm told our Soldiers have to check to ensure they are in DEERS, but not how often they must check. Once a week, once a month, every hour? At minimum, I want to know how often they need to check.

Also, I want to look into why the Soldier has to do it. A deployed Soldier has other things to worry about besides checking his DEERS status.

I believe this is a widespread problem, because when I talk to family members about it, people in the audience nod their heads. And it happened to my family.

My daughter called from college one weekend in the spring. The pharmacy where she'd gone to get a prescription refilled had told her she hadn't had insurance since the first of the year. I later learned I didn't have insurance, either, because we'd been dropped from DEERS. We think we were dropped when we got new ID cards. This happened on a holiday weekend, so it was Tuesday before we got the problem resolved.

I can't imagine having a sick child and an expensive prescription on the weekend and hearing a pharmacist say, "You're not in the system." They might offer, like they did my daughter, to refund the money if I bring proof of insurance in seven days, but what if it cost 50 dollars and I didn't have it?

Our healthcare system is a huge concern. I'm gathering information now so I can find the right people and get my questions answered.

Our daughter has no primary care physician because the doctor we had seen for many years was dropped from the system because the doctor didn't have the kind of malpractice insurance required. So now she has a name that was assigned to her, and that's all we know.

I don't know if it's my job, but I know these health care issues are a problem and I'm going to make it my job and look into.

Another thing I really want to do is visit wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed and other hospitals, especially Army Reserve Soldiers. They need to know that we appreciate what they've done for our country and that we also appreciate their families' sacrifices. Any time Reserve Soldiers are admitted, I want to make contact with them.

Many agencies visit the Soldiers, and I know that they get lots of help, but I want to make it personal.

It's easier to get through the hard times when people understand and thank you for what you do, so I want to thank Soldiers' families because I know they are making huge sacrifices.

I want to encourage families to help one another and to educate the public. I don't think the public really understands what it's like to worry about someone who's in harm's way. They think we either wring our hands all the time or cry ourselves to sleep every night.

Our neighbors lived next door for 18 years, and they didn't understand. Until recently, they thought the Army Reserve was still one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, even though my husband worked so much more than that, even when not mobilized. All of his annual vacation time went to the Reserve.

I want to make sure everyone has access to family readiness support. The purpose of this support is to teach families how to take care of themselves. We have virtual programs now, so if a Soldier's unit is in Florida and the family lives in Georgia, they can go online and stay in touch. I want to make sure all the families have the information they need.

Educating families on what's happening with Army transformation and Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) is right up there. I know Soldiers have the word, but I don't know how much of that information is making it to the home.

I want to help families understand the ARFORGEN system. When they put those slides up, it's all acronyms. I've been exposed to the military for a lot of years, but I still don't know what all those things mean.

Can you imagine being a new spouse going to the reserve center, sitting down and looking at that same slide show? They'd be lost.

Families need to know this is going to happen, so we need to understand it and build our lives around this model, because ARFORGEN will provide us with stability and predictability.

Finally, I want to help families meet challenges like those I faced in my own deployment experiences, and I want to listen to families' problems, suggestions and ideas.

PHOTO: LYNETTE WRIGHT

Teen panel members behind Mrs. Laura Stultz are from left: Lee Ratliff, director of Army Reserve Family Programs, Armando Silva, Adriene Leach, Kylie Clark, Karolyn Wotjtowicz, Heather Schaus, Amanda Wielechowski, Becky Busterud, Ellen Young, Jessica Bacon, Dwayne Batchelor, Morgan Peterson, Katherine Casillas, Lisa Hernandez Ramos, M.-A. Lucas, director, Army Child and Youth Services, Kasey Cerny and Pamela McBride, Army Reserve CYS Program Manager.

INTERVIEW

ARM: Tell us about those deployments and their impact on you and your children.

Mrs. Stultz: Soldiers should understand that my husband is one of them. He's been deployed three times over his career, for Operation Desert Storm, Operation Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard, and, most recently, for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) for two consecutive years.

We had children of all ages — except infants — when he was deployed because he went so many different times. So I know what families go through.

When my husband deployed for eight months for Desert Storm, I had four children at home. It affected all the children, but one experienced a serious emotional problem.

I had the TV on all the time because I had to know if something happened. I had to watch it all the time. Our child watched the news, and everything they showed was violent — buildings blowing up, scuds flying through the air and Israelis cowering during Scud missile attacks.

Looking back, I would limit the news exposure for my younger children.

When Jack went to Bosnia for nine months, it went by like a blur. The children were a bit older, and it wasn't as scary because, I think, there wasn't as much coverage of that operation. I know it was dangerous, but it wasn't anything like the first time he was away.

When my husband left for OIF, our daughter was a junior in high school, and she was a freshman in college when he came back. Jack was supposed to take Katie to visit colleges. He took the boys around, but he wasn't there for her. My oldest son took her to visit three universities in North Carolina.

He came home twice during this two-year deployment, once for the birth of our granddaughter and once for Katie's high school graduation. Katie is very shy, and when she learned she had to give the commencement address, she said, "Dad, I'm not going to do it unless you come home." And she meant it. She would not have gotten up on that stage if he hadn't come home.

He promised the second year he'd get to come home on a regular basis, and he did — if you call once a year a regular basis.

One big difference between deployments was communications.

Today, everyone has a cell phone. Deployments are easier when you can communicate, but cell phones make it more difficult for the military because nothing is secure. Soldiers talk about when they're coming home, and when plans they think are set get changed, that generates resentment.

ARM: You weren't interviewed for this job, you aren't being paid, and you have no staff. Why do you want to do these things?

Mrs. Stultz: I'm not doing it for money, and I don't need publicity, but I do want to carry my husband's message. I'm not really comfortable speaking to big groups, but I do recognize that my participation tells families that Jack and I care on a personal level. I know that because, after the ceremony where we dedicated a conference room to COL Ron Golinski, one of two Army Reserve Soldiers who died in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, his wife came up to me and said, "You don't know how much it means to me that you were here today."

ARM: How will you get feedback? How can families let you know about problems they face?

Mrs. Stultz: I need information from families with problems. Right now, I'm asking senior spouses to keep me informed, so families can pass information to me through them.

ARM: What do you hope to accomplish through your work?

Mrs. Stultz: I hope to have an impact on retention, because it's so vital to the Global War on Terrorism. We recruit a Soldier, but we retain a family. We've got to make sure families are taken care of so they want to stay in the Army Reserve and are willing to make that sacrifice.

If medical care is taken care of, if families have predictability in their future and can make plans, that will help retention. If Soldiers and their families know their contributions are important and appreciated, that will help retention. If families have the information and support they need during deployment, that will help retention. If the public understands and appreciates the Army Reserve, that will help retention.

The bottom line is you have to take care of that Soldier's family if you want to keep that Soldier. ARM

"We recruit a Soldier, but we retain a family. We've got to make sure families are taken care of so they want to stay in the Army Reserve and are willing to make that sacrifice." — Laura Stultz

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A WARRIOR
AND A MEMBER
OF A TEAM.
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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

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